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THE
VICTORIA HISTORY
OF THE COUNTIES
OF ENGLAND
SUSSEX



PUBLISHED FOR
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INSCRIBED
TO THE MEMORY OF
HER LATE MAJESTY
QUEEN VICTORIA
WHO GRACIOUSLY GAVE
THE TITLE TO AND
ACCEPTED THE
DEDICATION OF
THIS HISTORY



WALL-PAINTING AT THE OLD FLUSHING INN, RYE, SUSSEX
(From a drawing by Francis W. Reader)

THE
VICTORIA HISTORY
OF THE COUNTY OF
SUSSEX

EDITED BY
L. F. SALZMAN, M.A., F.S.A.

VOLUME NINE
THE RAPE OF HASTINGS

PUBLISHED FOR
THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
INSTITUTE OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH
REPRINTED BY
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FOLKESTONE & LONDON

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EDITORIAL NOTE

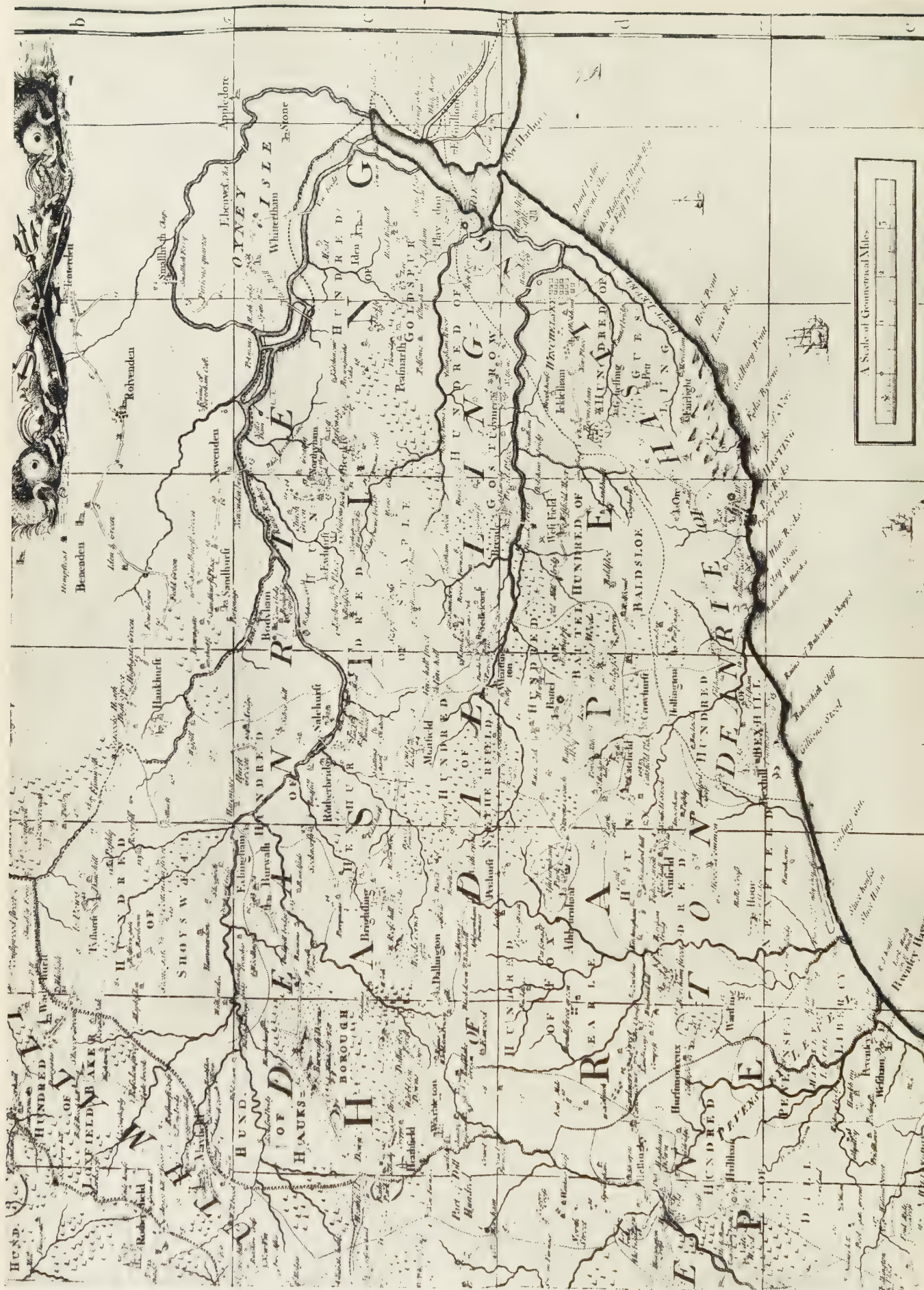
AT the time of his death, in 1934, Dr. William Page was preparing the material for the volume of the *Victoria History of Sussex* dealing with the Rape of Hastings. Under his scheme, by which one volume is to be given to each Rape, this is geographically the ninth volume, though fourth in order of issue. Most of the manorial descents had been compiled many years before, but these have been revised under the superintendence of the late Dr. Page and the present Editor.

It is fitting that our acknowledgements of indebtedness should begin with a tribute to the memory of two great antiquaries, Sir William Burrell (d. 1796) and E. H. W. Dunkin (d. 1915), whose collections, bequeathed by them to the British Museum, contain a mass of material, much of which, even when it has not since been lost, would otherwise be almost inaccessible.

For the frontispiece to this volume we are indebted to the courtesy of Mr. F. W. Reader and the Archaeological Institute. Our thanks are also due to the Council of the Sussex Archaeological Society for the loan of blocks and for permission to reproduce a number of early drawings of churches from the Sharpe Collection; to the proprietors of *Country Life* and of *The Sussex County Magazine* for certain blocks and photographs; and to Mr. Quentin Lloyd and Mr. Edmund Yates, F.S.A., for the provision of photographs.

Thanks are also due to Mr. Walter H. Godfrey, F.S.A., Mr. W. Maclean Homan, Mr. J. E. Ray, F.R.Hist.Soc., Mr. L. A. Vidler, Mr. S. P. Vivian, and the Very Rev. W. W. Youard for reading proofs and supplying information. Others to whom we are indebted for assistance in various ways include the late Lady Wolseley, the Rev. W. Budgen, F.S.A., Messrs. Hasties, Mr. E. S. Meads, Mr. W. Raper, and Mr. H. S. Goodhart-Rendel. We should also like to record our appreciation of the almost invariable courtesy shown to members of our architectural staff by the owners and occupiers of the very numerous ancient houses which had to be inspected.

Finally, attention must be called to the fact that the publication of this volume, as of Volume III in 1935, was made possible by the public-spirited action of a number of residents in the county who combined to guarantee the cost of production.



THE RAPE AND HONOUR OF HASTINGS

It is probable that the boundaries of the *RAPE* of Hastings roughly coincided with those of the land of the *Hestingorum gens* who formed a separate province on the east of the county. Offa conquered the Hæstingas in 771, but their name occurs in 1011 and 1149 and has survived in the town of Hastings.¹

That there was in the 10th century, when the 'Burghal Hidage' was drawn up, a district, assessed apparently at 500 hides, based on the town of Hastings (*Hastingecestre*)² is clear. That this was called a rape is possible, though there is no evidence of the fact; that it corresponded exactly to the rape as constituted in and after the Domesday survey may be doubted.³ The whole of the northern portion of the district seems to have been almost uninhabited woodlands until, probably under the influence of Earl Godwin, it was deliberately colonized from a group of manors lying to the north and west of Eastbourne.⁴ It remained a sparsely inhabited region, and in 1289 when an order was given for twelve knights or free men from each hundred to meet the sheriff at Guildford it was said that in some hundreds there were hardly four free men, in others only six or eight.⁵ This was probably far from literally accurate but does point to a very limited population.

The rape of Hastings is bounded on the south by the sea, on the east and north by the county of Kent, on the north-west by the parishes of Wadhurst and Mayfield, which were in 1086 part of the archbishop's manor of South Malling, and on the west by the hundreds of Dill and Pevensey. With the exception of natural changes in the coastline and some slight adjustments on the Kentish boundary, its extent has remained unchanged.

The *HONOUR* and *BARONY* of Hastings, which approximately covered the same area as the rape, apparently originated with the grant of the castelry of Hastings by the Conqueror to Robert Count of Eu, probably in 1069, when the count by his defeat of the Danish invaders in Lincolnshire deserved such a reward, and before 1070, the last year of Alric Bishop of Selsey, who is mentioned in the grant.⁶ William wanted to place Hastings, then a chief port of passage to Normandy, in safe hands, and the Count of Eu, being a powerful landowner on the opposite shores of France, could well regulate the traffic. The rape or barony was organized according to Norman methods, and it had its own sheriff.⁷ Sixty knights were to do ward at the

castle and make the bridges of the castle but were not to serve outside the rape except at the expense of the count.⁸ In 1334, and probably much earlier, the barony or rape was divided into four wards; fifteen holders of knight's fees from each ward had successively to serve the castle for four weeks at a time. The knights of Fairlight Ward took the first month, those of Wartling the second month, those of Warbleton the third month, and those of Etchingam the fourth month, but actual service had by this time been commuted for money payments.⁹ In 1148 the Bishop of Chichester, who had a claim on Bexhill, recovered four knights' fees there and a little later the abbey of Robertsbridge acquired another four fees, leaving in 1166 fifty-two knights' fees, at which the barony or rape was for a long time assessed.¹⁰ Besides the knights' fees certain serjeanties were attached to the honour. Amongst them we find in 1211-12 Hugh de Peplesham held land at Crowham by the service of finding a ship for the passage of the count and countess, for which he was given a robe; others held by the service of making summons throughout the rape, by the service at the halemote of Burwash, and, while the count was in the town, to sleep in the house and do what was ordered. There were other serjeanties relating to forest and military duties.¹¹

The court of the barony called 'Le Lathe' was held every three weeks, usually at Sedlescombe and Derfold in Netherfield Hundred;¹² to it all the holders of the 52 knights' fees owed suit. At it were taken all pleas of life and limb and all matters belonging to a baron's court;¹³ and it appears to have replaced the normal hundredal court for those hundreds in the hand of the lord of the rape.¹⁴

The stewardship of the barony was held by Simon de Echingam and his ancestors, though Robert de Hastings, whose father William de Hastings married Ida, daughter of John Count of Eu, wrongfully claimed the stewardship in free marriage by grant of his father-in-law in 1207.¹⁵

Robert Count of Eu died about 1090, and his son William Count of Eu was an adherent of Robert Curthose and for a time forfeited his English possessions. Being again accused of conspiracy in 1095, he was condemned to be blinded and, dying shortly afterwards, he was buried in the free chapel of St. Mary in Hastings Castle. His son, Henry, sided with William son of Duke Robert of Normandy against Henry I and was

¹ *Place-Name Soc.*, *Suss.* pt. 1, p. xxiv.

² Maitland, *Domesday Bk. and Beyond*, 502.

³ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 352-4; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxxii, 20-9, where the whole question of the date and origin of the rapes is discussed.

⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxxiv, 214-15.

⁵ Esch. Accts. file 1, no. 15.

⁶ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 373, 385, 397.

⁷ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xlii, 86; cf. *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 352.

⁸ *Red Bk. of Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), ii, 623.

⁹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vii, no. 625. The months being lunar, castle ward came seven times in two years: Aug. Off. Misc. Bks. 18, f. 24.

¹⁰ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 397; *Red Bk. of Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), i, 147. Bexhill was given back to the bishop in a charter of

John Count of Eu dated 1148: Memo. L.T.R. Trin. 15 Edw. III, m. 6.

¹¹ *Red Bk.* ii. 624.

¹² *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxvii, p. xxiii.

¹³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vii, no. 625.

¹⁴ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxvii, p. xxiv; *Red Bk.* 624.

¹⁵ C. Dawson, *Hist. Hastings Castle*, i, 71; *Rot. de Oblatis* (Rec. Com.), 376.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

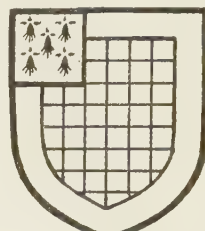
imprisoned until he surrendered his castles. He became a monk at the abbey of Foucarmont which he founded, and died in 1140.¹ His son John Count of Eu and lord of Hastings, an adherent of King Stephen, in 1166 returned 56 knights' fees of the old feoffment in the rape of Hastings. He also became a monk of Foucarmont and died in 1170, leaving a son Henry, a minor, in the custody of his grandfather, the Earl of Arundel.² Henry sided with the young king against Henry II in 1173 and, although he appears to have held the rape, the castle (q.v.) was in the king's hands. At his death in 1183³ his son Raoul or Ralph was a minor. Raoul died in 1186 and was succeeded by his sister Alice, who about 1191 married Raoul or Ralph of Exoudun or Lusignan.⁴ The title of Count of Eu devolved upon Raoul in right of his wife and they held the rape, but the castle appears to have remained with the Crown. In 1201 King John quarrelled with the Lusignans about his marriage with Isabel of Angoulême and seized the rape of Hastings and granted it with the other lands in England which belonged to the Count of Eu to John de Eu, uncle of Alice.⁵ On his death in 1207 it reverted to the Crown, John in that year granting to the barons, knights, and free tenants of the rape quittance of suits, summons, and pleas of the forest.⁶ The rape was returned to the count and countess in 1214 but the castle was only held by them intermittently.⁷ Raoul died in 1219 and his widow Alice held the castle and rape or honour of Hastings⁸ until in 1225 Henry III, finding the inconvenience of the castle being in the hands of a foreigner, made the countess surrender it to him until there should be a peace with France, saving to the countess her rights over her knights and free tenants of the honour.⁹ The countess, however, lost her English lands in 1244 as an adherent of the King of France.¹⁰ The honour was never restored to her descendants, although in 1259 and 1290 they sued for restoration. On both occasions the royal reply was that when the King of France gave back the lands of the men of England in Normandy, the lands of the men of France in England would be restored.¹¹

In 1249 the castle and honour of Hastings were granted to Peter of Savoy, the king's uncle,¹² that he might fortify the castles of Hastings and Rye. Peter was appointed keeper of the lands late of Alice Countess of Eu, but in 1251 the farm of her lands was allotted to the expenses of the king's children.¹³ The countess's lands were, however, granted to Edward the king's son in 1254,¹⁴ though he seems to have held the rape in the previous year.¹⁵ In 1257 and 1260 Edward pledged the rape to his father as security for loans from the King of France in his great necessity,¹⁶ and to Boniface, Archbishop of Canterbury, for the war in Wales.¹⁷ Edward in 1262 restored the honour, castle, and rape to the king for the benefit of Peter of Savoy and in exchange for lands in Norfolk and Suffolk.¹⁸ In 1265 the honour of Hastings, which had been seized by the baronial party,¹⁹ was restored to Peter of Savoy, who

died in 1268, when the honour and rape of Hastings, except the castle and town, were granted to John eldest son of John de Bretagne, who had married Beatrice



PETER OF SAVOY. *Gules a cross argent.*



JOHN DE BRETAGNE. *Checky or and azure a border gules and a quarter ermine.*

daughter of Henry III.²⁰ A claim to the honours of Laigle and Hastings was set up in 1270 by Thomas, Amadeo, and Lewis of Savoy, brothers of Peter of Savoy, under his will, the honour of Hastings being in the hands of the king's son Edward, who was then at the Crusades,²¹ John de Bretagne being with him. In August 1274 a valuation of the castle, town, and advowson of the church of the castle was made in order to make an exchange with John de Bretagne, who had seisin in 1277, probably on his return from the Crusades.²² In 1290 the rape was in the king's hands owing apparently to the neglect of the earl to perform the services due from him for the wars in Wales, and again in 1295 when the earl sided with France against England.²³ John de Bretagne died in 1305, holding the barony by service of 2½ knights' fees,²⁴ when the earldom of Richmond reverted to the Crown, as his son and heir, Arthur, was in arms against England. John was succeeded in England by John, his second son, who was granted the earldom of Richmond in 1306. On the peace with France, however, Arthur claimed the Bretagne estates in England, and in 1310 the English estates were granted to him on condition that he conveyed them to his brother John, failing whose heirs they should revert to Arthur and his heirs.²⁵ John Earl of Richmond was sent on an embassy to France in 1326, when he attached himself to the party of the King of France and Queen Isabelle and forfeited his lands here. His property was restored to him by Edward II when the king was in the queen's hands at the end of the year.²⁶

The Earl of Richmond leased his English estates to his niece Mary de St. Pol, Countess of Pembroke, in November 1333, but she renounced the lease two months later²⁷ and the earl died shortly after in 1334.²⁸ He was succeeded by his nephew John son of Arthur Duke of Brittany, who died without legitimate issue in 1341.

The Inquisition taken in 1334 after the death of John Earl of Richmond shows that he died seised of the barony of Hastings together with the manors of Bur-

¹ G.E.C. *Complete Peerage* (2nd ed.), v, 154-6.

² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxxi, 98, 100-1.

³ G.E.C. *op. cit.* 159.

⁴ *Ibid.* 160.

⁵ Dawson, *op. cit.* 68.

⁶ *Rot. Chart.* (Rec. Com.), 173.

⁷ *Ibid.* 197; *Bk. of Fees*, i, 71; *Rot. Litt. Pat.* (Rec. Com.), i, 116.

⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1216-25, p. 203.

⁹ *Ibid.* p. 579; *Bk. of Fees*, ii, 691.

¹⁰ *Cal. Pat.* 1232-47, p. 422.

¹¹ *Rot. Scacc. Norm.* ii, p. ccxxxvi.

¹² *Cal. Pat.* 1247-58, pp. 49, 50;

¹³ *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.* (Rec. Com.), i, 12.

¹⁴ *Cal. Pat.* 1247-58, p. 270.

¹⁵ *Cal. Close* 1251-3, p. 338.

¹⁶ *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.* (Rec. Com.), i, 18.

¹⁷ *Cal. Pat.* 1247-58, p. 572.

¹⁸ *Ibid.* 1266-72, pp. 705, 733; *Cal. Chart.* 1257-1300, pp. 42, 44, 45.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* 452.

²⁰ *Ibid.* 1266-72, pp. 3, 394, 375; 1292-1301, p. 445.

²¹ *Ibid.* 1266-72, p. 487.

²² *Cal. Pat.* 1272-81, p. 55.

²³ *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.* (Rec. Com.), i, 294; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, no. 255.

²⁴ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 405.

²⁵ Dawson, *op. cit.* i, 142-3, quoting *Pat.* 4 Edw. II, pt. i, m. 18.

²⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1324-7, p. 343; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, no. 725.

²⁷ Dawson, *op. cit.* i, 165.

²⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vii, no. 625.

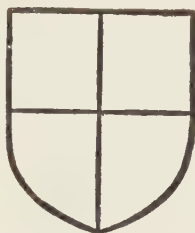
THE RAPE AND HONOUR OF HASTINGS

wash, Bevilham, and Crowhurst; and also of the manors of Filsham and Hamerden and lands in Morley and Cortesley, belonging to the barony, which the earl had granted to Bertram de Monboucher and Joan his wife; together with the fee farms, hundreds, and knights' fees of the barony. There were nine and a half hundreds belonging to the barony, namely, Goldspur, Staple, Ninfeld, Guestling, Baldslow, Foxearle, Hawksborough, Shoyswell, Henhurst, and the half-hundred of Netherfield. The sheriff of Sussex held his turn twice a year and only the view of frankpledge belonged to the barony. There were 52 knights' fees the tenants of which owed suit to the court of the barony called 'the Lathe' every three weeks. The castle-guard formerly owed had been commuted to a money payment amounting to £21 a year. This was apparently paid to the earl notwithstanding that the king retained the castle.¹

John de Montfort, half-brother of the late earl, had a grant of the earldom of Richmond,² but both it and the rape of Hastings were resumed by the Crown. In 1342 John of Gaunt, son of Edward III, then aged 3 years, was created Earl of Richmond and endowed with all the honours, castles, manors, &c., which John Duke of Brittany and Earl of Richmond had held.³ He was created Duke of Lancaster in 1362 and in 1366 mortgaged the rape of Hastings on setting out on the king's service to Gascony.⁴ He resigned the earldom of Richmond with the lands held with it in 1372⁵ and it was granted in the same year to John de Montfort, Duke of Brittany, and Joan his wife, half-sister of Richard II.⁶ In 1381 Montfort forfeited his possessions in England for his adherence to the King of France, but the manors of Crowhurst and other manors in the rape were granted for the maintenance of the king's half-sister.⁷ The rape was granted in 1384 to Anne, Queen of Richard II,⁸ and she was in possession of the rape at the time of her death in 1394.⁹

In 1398 the honour of Richmond and the lands, &c., belonging to it were granted to Joan sister of John Duke of Brittany and widow of Ralph Lord Basset of Drayton, Anthony Ricz, and Nicholas Alderwych,¹⁰ but the grant was almost immediately resumed by the Crown. On his accession in 1399 Henry IV granted to his half-sister's husband Ralph Neville, Earl of Westmorland, for life the castle, earldom, and honour of Richmond.¹¹ This grant appears to have carried the castle and rape of Hastings, for in 1408 Neville conveyed the remainder of his lease for life of the manors of Crowhurst, Burwash, and Bevilham as parcel of the castle and lordship of Richmond with the rape of Hastings to John Norbury.¹² The Earl of Westmorland died in 1425 and a confusion arises in the descent of the castle, barony, and rape. The king in 1412 had granted to Sir John Pelham the reversion of the rape and the lands leased to John Norbury.¹³ Sir John entered into possession and in 1428 granted the property to his illegitimate son John, who on his father's death in 1429 assigned dower out of the rape and the issues of the court called 'La Lathe' to his father's

widow Joan. Evidently the clerks of the Chancery had discovered that the grant to Pelham only covered the lands named and the rape, and that the castle, lordship, barony, and honour of Hastings, from which neither King Henry VI nor his progenitors had received any profits since the death of the Earl of Westmorland, were still outstanding. Apparently the Pelhams had considered the grant of the rape as covering the castle, lordship, and barony, but in 1445 these latter properties were granted to Sir Thomas Hoo. Pelham unsuccessfully petitioned against the grant, and a compromise was evidently arranged whereby Pelham in 1446 granted the rape to Hoo and others, trustees to the use of Hoo. At the same time the free chapel was placed under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Chichester.¹⁴ In 1448 Hoo was created Baron of Hoo and Hastings, and although when he died in 1455 he left four daughters, by his will¹⁵ he gave the right of pre-emption of the rape to his step-brother Thomas Hoo, who obtained a confirmation of the lordship, barony, honour, and rape of Hastings from Sir John Pelham in 1456.¹⁶ Thomas Hoo granted the honour



Hoo. *Quarterly sable and argent.*



HASTINGS. *Argent a sleeve sable.*

and rape to Sir William Hastings, first Lord Hastings, the king's chamberlain, in 1461.¹⁷ This grant was confirmed by Edward IV in 1462, who granted the lordship, honour, and rape, and separately the castle, lordship, barony, and honour, the advowson of the collegiate church within the castle, and the advowsons of the churches of St. Clement and All Saints in Hastings, St. George of Brede, and St. Thomas the Martyr, St. Giles and St. Leonard in Winchelsea, and the right to have his own coroner for the rape.¹⁸ Lord Hastings was accused of treason and beheaded in 1483. He forfeited his lands, but his son Edward in 1487 received a confirmation of the castle, lordship, barony, and honour of Hastings.¹⁹

Edward third Lord Hastings died in 1506, and the custody of his son and heir George was granted to Edmund Dudley,²⁰ but in the following year George had livery of his father's lands.²¹ He settled the property in 1513²² and was created Earl of Huntingdon in 1529. He died in 1544 leaving a son and heir Francis, who died in 1560. Henry third Earl of Huntingdon, his son and heir, conveyed the castle, lordship, and rape to Sir Thomas Pelham in 1591.²³

Probably for security of title, the castle, lordship, and rape were conveyed on behalf of Thomas Pelham to John Clarke and others in 1601.²⁴ Thomas Pelham

¹ Translation in full in Dawson, op. cit. 166-7.

² G.E.C. *Complete Peerage* (1st ed.), vi, 354.

³ Recited in *Cal. Pat.* 1461-87, p. 138.

⁴ *Ibid.* 1364-7, p. 333.

⁵ *Ibid.* 1370-4, p. 184.

⁶ *Ibid.* p. 183.

⁷ *Ibid.* 1381-5, p. 51.

⁸ *Ibid.* p. 532.

⁹ *Cal. Pat.* 1391-6, p. 488.

¹⁰ *Cal. Chart.* 1341-1417, p. 371.

¹¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1461-7, p. 138. Printed in Dawson, op. cit. i, 230-1.

¹² Add. Chart. 29977. Printed in Dawson, op. cit. 236-7.

¹³ Dawson, op. cit. 243.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* 266-8.

¹⁵ See Early Chan. Proc. 26, no. 118.

¹⁶ Add. Chart. 30052, printed in Dawson, op. cit. 279.

¹⁷ *Cal. Pat.* 1461-7, p. 138.

¹⁸ Dawson, op. cit. 286.

¹⁹ *Mat. for Hist. of Hen. VII* (Rolls Ser.), ii, 213.

²⁰ *Cal. Pat.* 1494-1509, p. 501.

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 5 Hen. VIII.

²³ *Ibid.* Mich. 33-4 Eliz.

²⁴ Pat. 43 Eliz. pt. 7.

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was created a baronet in 1611 and died in 1624, when he was succeeded by his son Thomas, aged 27 years,¹ who died in 1654. He was followed by his son Sir John, who with Thomas and Gilbert Pelham settled the Hastings estates on the marriage of his son Sir Thomas Pelham to Grace, daughter of the Earl of Clare and sister of John Duke of Newcastle.² Sir John Pelham, 3rd baronet, died in 1702. His son Sir Thomas (d. 1712) was created Baron Pelham of Laughton in 1706 and was succeeded by his son Sir Thomas, who took the additional name of Holles on the death of his maternal uncle John Duke of Newcastle in 1711, and was in 1714 created Earl of Clare



PELHAM. *Azure three pelicans argent, quartering Gules two buckles with their straps argent.*

and in 1715 Duke of Newcastle. He conveyed the castle and honour in 1741 to the Duke of Devonshire, probably for a settlement, and died without issue in 1768. In 1762 he had been created Baron Pelham of Stanmer (co. Sussex) with special remainder to his cousin Thomas Pelham of Stanmer, who also succeeded to the Hastings estates. Thomas was created Earl of Chichester in 1801 and died in 1805. He was succeeded by his son Thomas, 6th Earl of Chichester (d. 1826), and the property has passed from him to his son Henry Thomas, 7th Earl (d. 1886), to his son Walter John, 8th Earl (d. 1902), to his brother Francis Godolphin, 9th Earl (d. 1905), and to his son Jocelyn Brudenell Pelham, the 10th Earl of Chichester, who died 14 Nov. 1926. His eldest son Francis Godolphin Henry died eight days later and the earldom, with castle, lordship and rape passed to his younger son John Buxton Pelham, the present Earl of Chichester.

THE BOROUGH OF HASTINGS

HASTINGS is situated on the sea coast at a spot where two streams, the Bourne and the Priory stream, sometimes called 'Old Roar', formerly ran into the sea on either side of the promontory on which the castle stands. This cliff and that to the east of the Old Town are the termination of spurs running south from the main ridge of high ground stretching south-east from Battle and the northern range of hills through Ore to Fairlight. The Castle Cliff separates the old and new towns, the latter continuing westward to join St. Leonards. The ancient *Boundaries* of the borough, starting at Bulverhythe in the west, at a point by the present West Marina station, and extending to Ecclesbourne Glen in the east, included (in that order) the parish of St. Mary, Bulverhythe; the southern part of St. Leonards parish; the whole of St. Mary Magdalene and Holy Trinity parishes; that of St. Mary in the Castle as far north as Hole Farm, with a strip extending up to and across the old London Road; the parishes of St. Michael, St. Andrew, St. Clement, and All Saints;³ and a small strip on the southern limit of Ore parish, the boundary running through the Hare and Hounds, on Fairlight Down. In 1897 the boundaries of the Parliamentary Borough were extended northward from the Fairlight Road to include a further part of the civil parish of Ore, the ecclesiastical parish of St. Helen, and part of Hollington civil parish.



BOROUGH OF HASTINGS. *Party gules and azure a leopard or between two leopards or dimidiating hulls of ships argent.*

There were also four outlying portions belonging to the borough, which included Petit Iham, 50 acres of marsh, being part of St. Leonards near Winchelsea; the Liberty of the Sluice in Bexhill; the parish of Beaksbourne in the Lathe of St. Augustine's near Canterbury; and the vill of Grange or Grench in the Lathe of Aylesford, near Rochester. Of these only Petit Iham still retains its connexion with the borough.

The main London Road now runs from Battle

through Hollington, Silverhill, and Bohemia, and enters the town from the west. The earlier road ran from Battle to Ore, and then turning south-west entered the old town at the junction of All Saints and High Streets. Through St. Leonards a main road runs west to Sidley and Bexhill; another runs east through Ore to Rye.

Hastings became a municipal borough under the Municipal Borough Acts, and by the Local Government Act of 1888 was declared a county borough for certain purposes. Under the Public Health Act of 1851 Hastings and St. Leonards combined were divided into ten wards, administered by the mayor, aldermen, and 18 councillors, the number of councillors being raised in 1897 to 30.

The first railway station at Hastings was opened in 1851. A branch of the Southern Railway from Lewes to Ashford runs through the town, having stations (from west to east) at Marina and Warrior Square (St. Leonards), Hastings, and Ore. Another line running south from Tunbridge Wells and Battle joins the former line at St. Leonards, with a station at West St. Leonards.

Trackless trolley buses serve the surrounding district, and numerous motor buses converge upon the town. In former times the daily mail-coaches to and from London, Brighton, and Margate had their terminus at the Post Office in the Old Town opposite the Swan Inn. In 1745 the 'Regulator' coach, advertised as a fast coach, took three days to cover the 63 miles to London, but by the end of that century a coach ran three or four times a week to Tonbridge, met the London coach, and returned to Hastings the same night.⁴

The Old Town of Hastings, in **DESCRIPTION** the Bourne Valley, was protected towards the sea by a wall which stretched across the mouth of the valley from the castle headland to the east cliff. This wall was provided with towers at each end and had three gates.⁵ The western tower originally stood at a spot west of the Hastings Arms in George Street, and the eastern one close to Tamarisk Steps. They can both be seen on the Corporation Map of 1746. Of the four gates, the main

¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccccxvii, 41.

² Feet of F. Suss. East. 2 Jas. II.

³ *Boundary Reports*, pt. v, p. 51, &c.

⁴ Salzman, *Hastings*, 75.

⁵ See, J. E. Ray, 'Notes on the Town

Wall', in *Rep. of Hastings Museum Assoc.* 1934.

one, the Drawbridge Gate, or Sea Gate, stood at the lower end of High Street, the foundations being discovered there in 1856. It was sometimes called St. Clement's Gate. The Water Gate was at the mouth of the Bourne. The New Gate, or East Sea Gate, sometimes called Pulpit Gate, stood at the bottom of All Saints Street, and was approached by steps from the Stade. It was only taken down about 1820. In 1657 there was a garden under the wall.¹ Traces of the old wall are built into houses along East Bourne Street and John Street, but the only obvious relic of it is a jagged end visible on the west side of Bourne Street, at the southern end opposite East Bourne Street.

The first record of provision of *Defences* for the town, other than the castle and the walls, is in 1587, when Hastings was provided with 10 guns for protection against the Spaniards.² In 1594 and again in 1625 a 'scot' was levied on the townsmen for ammunition and repairs to the fortifications.³ At this time the attacks of French privateers were much feared; a strong watch was kept at night, and a petition made for further defence. In response to this 6 guns were granted, and in February 1627-8 the town gunner was sent to London to receive them. A garrison of 40 soldiers was also sent, and was later augmented by 100 more.⁴ In 1656 there is record of 2 guns being mounted for the defence of the town, and these would doubtless be in the 'Gun Garden' referred to in 1657.⁵ In 1665-6 there was another petition for assistance to put the town in a state of defence against the French and Dutch. Between 1690 and 1695 two small forts were erected by the town, for 'defence against the insults of French privateers'.⁶ About 1760 a fort was built on the Stone Beach, at the west end of the Stade, to replace the two small batteries, and in 1766 a battery of 11 twelve-pounders was provided. Later a three-gun battery on White Rock was armed with pieces from the *San Josef* taken at the battle of St. Vincent in 1797. This, however, was demolished in 1832 to make room for the continuation of the Parade, and the Fort also was displaced by modern developments.

The ancient Court House stood beside the Bourne stream, on the site of the present Police and Fire Station of the Old Town, and was provided with a chamber over the Bourne for the ducking of scolds. To this hall the public elections were transferred from the Hundred Place⁷ in 1603, and in 1615 a new room, 12 ft. by 14 ft., with a garret over, for a storehouse, was built on to the north side, on the Bourne. In 1702 'all that was over the Bourne' was pulled down, and the roof of 'that part which was once the prison and duck house', was levelled to the Court Hall floor.⁸ As late as 1746 there was no bridge over the Bourne below this.

A Town Hall was built in High Street in 1700, apparently to supersede the decaying Court Hall, and in 1823 it was replaced by a new structure on the same site, erected at the expense of John Pulteney, M.P., and Peter Gott. This building is now an antique shop, the present Town Hall in Queen's Road having been built in 1881 to meet the needs of the new town.

In 1657 three inns are mentioned in the town, the 'Chequer', the 'George', and the 'Swan'.⁹ Of these the 'Swan', built in the 16th century and occupying the block between Swan Lane, Hill Street, and High Street, continued to be the principal hostelry of the place until its demolition in 1889. Its name is continued in the present Swan Hotel in High Street. The Crown Inn in All Saints Street appeared as a rival to the 'Swan' in 1816, and the Castle Hotel, adjoining Wellington Place, the first of the modern order, was built shortly before 1824.

The ancient town, as shown in the earliest maps,¹⁰ consisted simply of two parallel streets converging at the upper end, High Street and All Saints Street, connected by various cross lanes, and with the Bourne stream running down the valley between them. This was still the extent of Hastings in the middle of the 18th century. The Tackleway, parallel to All Saints Street under the East Hill, is mentioned as early as 1499 as 'le Tegill Wey',¹¹ and in 1746 there was a lane running parallel to High Street under the Castle Hill.¹² Westward of this there was nothing but a windmill on White Rock and the Priory Farm inland behind it. A few houses in what is now George Street began to grow up about the middle of the 17th century. In 1703 the town was said by Daniel Defoe to consist of at least 600 houses, and between 1731 and 1801 the population nearly doubled, reaching the figure of 3,175.¹³ George Street advanced westwards, and in 1805 the Marine Parade was begun. By 1824 Pelham Place and Crescent were in process of erection, and Castle Street, York Buildings, and Wellington Place stretched as far as the Priory Bridge, which was then the western limit of the town.¹⁴ In 1835 it was reported that the town was disfigured by 'mean tenements' on the beach between the sea and the row of handsome houses forming the Marine Parade.¹⁵

The waste ground which had once formed part of the Priory Haven was next taken over, a stone bridge was built in place of the old wooden one, and houses began to creep along the White Rock Road towards the 'desolate little parish of St. Leonards'.

1828 saw the founding of St. Leonards by Mr. James Burton, who caused the large flat rock known as 'the Conqueror's Stone' to be removed and erected the St. Leonards Hotel on the site. In 1831 the population of the parish was 73, but by 1834 St. Leonards consisted of 'a neat line of upwards of a hundred buildings', with Assembly Rooms and Gardens, and another street behind.¹⁶ In that year the hotel was renamed in honour of the Princess Victoria, who stayed with the Duchess of Kent at St. Leonards for a while. After the French Revolution of 1848 Louis Philippe resided at the Royal Victoria Hotel for some time and was visited there by Guizot and Thiers.

The growth of both towns progressed rapidly. The lands, known as 'the America Ground', at the mouth of the Priory stream were gradually cleared of their shanties as leases expired, and about 1849 were built over by Mr. Robertson, who gave his name to that

¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xii, 196.

² *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 152.

³ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii, App. iv, 357, 361.

⁴ *Ibid.* 361, 362; *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 156.

⁵ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xii, 196.

⁶ *Cal. S. P. Dom.* 1695, p. 110.

⁷ The site of the Hundred Place was

in Winding Lane, east of the High Street.

⁸ Cousins, *Hastings*, 148. Cole takes this to mean that the Court Hall was completely demolished at that date.

⁹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xii, 196. The tenement called 'le Swane' is mentioned in 1523: *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. Lord de L'Isle and Dudley*, i, 158.

¹⁰ Cole, *Antiqs. of Hastings*, 136.

¹¹ Deed in Hastings Museum.

¹² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xii, 196.

¹³ Salzman, *Hastings*, 76, 82. According to the census returns of 1931 the population of the borough was over 65,200.

¹⁴ W. G. Moss, *Hist. of Hastings*, map.

¹⁵ *Munic. Corp. Com.* ii, 1002.

¹⁶ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 442.

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street. The stream was finally covered in, and is now only to be seen inland in Alexandra Park. The site of the ancient bridge is marked by the Albert Memorial in the centre of the modern town. Suburbs grew up inland behind the Castle Hill, and up Clive Vale to Ore. Behind St. Leonards the houses stretch north over the old manors of Gensing and Filsham, through Bohemia and Silverhill almost to Hollington. The sea frontage has an extent of 3 miles, with two piers and a bathing-pool.

The old town lies in the valley between East and West Hills, the latter of which is dominated by the castle and contains St. Clement's Caves, partly natural but much enlarged by the quarrying of sand, possibly for glass-making about 1600.¹ High Street and All Saints Street run north-east from the sea front and are parallel until they converge at the north end to join the old London Road at the former market-place. The streets are narrow and the level rises steadily from south to north; and, because of the sloping hill-sides flanking them, the houses and footways of their west and east sides respectively are raised to a higher level than the roadways and inner side-walks. St. Clement's Parish Church stands west of the south end of High Street and All Saints' Church east of the north end of All Saints Street. At the north end of the High Street on the east side is the modern Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary Star of the Sea. Midway between the two streets run Bourne Street and Bourne Walk, which occupy the line of the former stream called the Bourne, now enclosed below the street. A map drawn in 1746² shows that the buildings then existing stood on the west bank of the stream, and that the south end of All Saints Street was closed by a wall in which was a narrow gate for foot-passengers, the roadway being deflected westwards to cross the Bourne. A number of cross streets and passages connect the three streets, the principal being Court House Street. East Bourne Street joins the south end of All Saints Street to Bourne Street, and John Street the latter and High Street, being continued westward as George Street to meet the Marine Parade. Between these and the beach—known as the Stade—are approximately parallel streets of later lay-out. Hill Street and Croft Road, both west of and parallel with High Street, are also parts of the old town. The former is approached at its south end by steps up from George Street, and the west face of St. Clement's Church is on the latter.

High Street, which is the principal business thoroughfare, has its buildings numbered from 1 to 61 on the east side from north to south and 62 to 118 from south to north on the west side. Some thirty-two of the houses retain traces of a 17th-century or earlier origin: nearly all have been treated with plaster, generally on timber-framing, and about eight still preserve their original jettied upper stories, while many others have been underbuilt either in brick or with modern shop-fronts. Tiled roofs are almost universal, and in some instances the chimney-stacks built of ancient thin bricks are the chief evidence of age. In only one building in this street is the original framing exposed; this is 'Dickens Cottage', no. 112, which has an overhanging upper story now underbuilt with brick and a projecting window frame on a moulded bracket. It is a small structure with gabled ends, probably of early-17th-century date.

Probably the earliest surviving building in the street

is no. 46 on the east side, which dates from c. 1450. The gabled west front on the street has been entirely refaced, but the ancient close studding is visible inside the gable-head. The house is of rectangular plan and appears to have had a middle block with an upper hall of two bays, and two end bays equivalent to the usual solar and buttery wings, the western towards the street. The ground floor has been much altered but retains original moulded wall-beams and braced ceiling-beams, and there is exposed timber-framing in the back wall. On the first floor is an arched oak doorway which opened from the hall into the east wing. The original roof-timbers still exist, hidden by modern ceilings. The middle truss of the hall-roof has an octagonal king-post with a moulded capital and base and four-way struts under a central purlin, all carried on a cambered tie-beam. The other trusses are plainer and formed partitions between the hall and the wings. No. 42a, at the north corner of Courthouse Street, also contains the remains of a late-15th-century roof of the central purlin type. The west part was heightened and refaced with brick early in the 18th century and the windows were subsequently altered. The south side has a plastered projecting upper story with a moulded oak bressummer on shaped brackets.

Nos. 102, 103, and 104 have jettied upper stories on curved brackets and date probably from late in the 16th century. The ceilings have moulded beams and wide joists. In the side passage to no. 103 is an arched doorway. Nos. 96 and 97 are a pair of 17th-century buildings, much disguised by plaster. They have jettied upper stories, the bressummers of which were encased with plaster but a part of one of them has been stripped, revealing a carved date 1668 and a kind of honeysuckle ornament. One original carved bracket remains.

Pelham House, no. 82, was rebuilt in 1877 but preserves on its front a carved date 1610 and the buckle badge of the Pelhams. No. 68 has a late-17th-century back-wing of red and black bricks and some old timber-framing in the back gable-head.

Some thirty or more buildings may be ascribed to the first half of the 18th century: some of these are plastered but many are of brick—often red with black headers—and have string-courses and moulded wooden cornices to the eaves. Many of the later 18th-century and 19th-century buildings are tall structures with bow windows, and several are faced with the geometrical tile-hanging which is largely used in the coastal regions of Sussex to imitate brickwork. The old Town Hall, next to no. 68, is a stucco-fronted building with an arcade and has the date 1823 on the rain-water heads. Another stucco-fronted building of about the same period is the Old Hastings Club and Coventry Patmore Institute—no. 40—it has an arcade, and a recessed upper story with Doric columns and a balustraded balcony. The next building—no. 38—has a late-18th-century plastered front with an ornate bow window.

All Saints Street preserves a rather greater proportion of its timber-framed elevations than High Street. Its buildings are numbered in the same manner, beginning from the north end of the east side. The best group includes nos. 58, 59, and 60 near the south end of the east side. The fronts except for modern window-frames are practically as originally built. Nos. 58 and 59 are of mid-15th-century date. The former has a jettied upper story with a plain bressummer carried on the ends of substantial floor beams and curved brackets

¹ Salzman, *Hastings*, 113.

² Reproduced in *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xii.



HASTINGS: HIGH STREET



HASTINGS: ALL SAINTS STREET

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projecting architraves. On the opposite side of the High Street north of the Catholic church is another large building which was formerly used as the stables and mews to Old Hastings House but was probably erected as a dwelling-house late in the 17th century. The plan is of a half-H shape and the walls of red and black bricks with square pilasters at the angles of the two wings and a square plinth; a slightly projecting bay in the middle of the main block received the main entrance, now altered. The wings have half-gable heads. The eaves-cornice is of wood and is carried across the ends of the wings as well as round the half-gable heads. The tall window openings have red and black segmental arches and are fitted with wood mullions and transoms.

In the modern town, Pelham Crescent, to form which part of the Castle Cliff was cut back in 1823, is a good example of the style of that period; and the fact that most of the houses on the sea front belong to this same period gives a restful symmetry to the whole. The Town Hall and the Brassey Institute, housing the public library, were both built in 1880 in the Gothic style then prevalent, of which the Albert Memorial clock tower is another example. The museum, which was originally housed in the Brassey Institute, was moved in 1935 into new premises in Bohemia Road.

Alexandra Park, which included Newgate and Shornden Woods, was opened in 1882, and beginning north of Queen's Road stretches north-west to Bucks-hole Reservoir and Bohemia, along the course of the 'Old Roar'. Gensing Gardens, preserving the name of that manor, are situated north of Warrior Square Station, and St. Leonards Gardens are behind the Royal Victoria Hotel.

The Royal East Sussex Hospital, at the lower end of Bohemia Road, was opened in 1923, and there are a number of Convalescent Homes on the west cliff, to the east of Marina Station. The Duke of Wellington, George Macdonald, Herbert Spencer, Coventry Patmore, and Mark Rutherford are among the distinguished people who have resided for a time in Hastings. Among earlier visitors who have recorded their impressions of the town may be mentioned John Taylor, 'the water poet', in 1623, Lord Byron in 1814, and Charles Lamb in 1823.¹ Of its residents the most notorious is undoubtedly Titus Oates, the son of Samuel Oates, an Anabaptist chaplain who conformed at the Restoration and thereby obtained the living of All Saints.²

The Curfew was still rung regularly in 1824, at which signal the apprentices ceased work.³ In 1911 it was rung during the winter months only, at 8 p.m.⁴ but has since been discontinued.

Water was formerly supplied to the inhabitants by the Bourne Stream. As early as 1606 it was realized that that part of the stream within the town had become corrupt, and a 'scot' was levied towards conveying the water to the town in lead pipes from above the point

of contamination.⁵ The stream was dammed into a pond at the head of the town, called the Slough,⁶ the site of which is marked by the inclosed shrubbery just below the junction of the two streets. This was fitted with sluice-gates, which were opened at intervals, upon the blowing of a warning horn, that the stream bed might be flushed and the inhabitants collect fresh water. Early in the 19th century it was realized that this left something to be desired; by 1824 water was brought round in carts, and could be obtained from pumps and from the East Well, and about ten years later the whole stream was covered in.⁷ About this time, too, the first reservoir was made, in Clive Vale, under the Improvement Act of 1832.⁸

Horse-racing was instituted in 1823 on Bulverhithe Salts, and in 1826 was moved to a new course at Bopeep in the Filsham Valley. These races died out in 1846 except for an attempted revival in 1849.⁹ Cricket was played here as far back as the middle of the 18th century, but the first Hastings Cricket Club was not formed until 1840.¹⁰

The existence of the town and port *BOROUGH* of Hastings goes back to a very early date, but it seems clear that the 8th-century grants by Earl Berthwold of lands in Rotherfeld, Hastings, and Pevensey to the abbey of St. Denis, and their confirmations by Offa and later Saxon sovereigns, are forgeries without any corroborative evidence to support them.¹¹ The first authentic reference to Hastings is in the laws of Athelstan of 928, where Hastings is mentioned in the list of towns at which there were moneyers. The existence of a mint indicates a borough of importance, and as the coins minted at Hastings cover the period from the time of Ethelred (978-1016) to the end of Stephen's reign (1154), it may be assumed that Hastings was flourishing during those centuries.¹² It is possible that it was the port of the great manor of 'Rameslie' which King Ethelred, between his flight to Normandy in 1013 and his death in 1016, promised to grant to the monks of Fécamp. His widow, Queen Emma, daughter of Richard Duke of Normandy, married King Cnut in 1017, and probably by her influence Cnut fulfilled Ethelred's promise. His charter to Fécamp was confirmed by Harthacnut about 1028 and later by Edward the Confessor.¹³ Earl Godwin and his sons annulled this grant about 1054, when they obtained control of this district. William, later the Conqueror, afterwards promised to make restitution if his expedition to England were successful.¹⁴ It may be that the Abbot of Fécamp still had an influence at Hastings in October 1066 where perhaps preparations were made for the reception of the Norman army. This may account for William's hurried march to Hastings after landing at Pevensey. Here he constructed fortifications and made his base before setting out for the battle that was to place him on the English throne.¹⁵

Even in the 11th century the men of Hastings (Hastinga Ceastre) were an organized body which

¹ Salzman, *Hastings*, 74, 90, 92.

² Ibid. 62.

³ Moss, *op. cit.* 157.

⁴ Cousins, *op. cit.* 168.

⁵ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii, App. iv, 360.

⁶ This was repaired in 1550 from the plunder of the two parish churches: Salzman, *Hastings*, 111.

⁷ Before 1824 the stream was covered

as high up as the site of the old Court House. Moss, *map.*

⁸ Salzman, *op. cit.* 111; Moss, 170; Cousins, 135, 261.

⁹ Cousins, *op. cit.* 91; Salzman, *op. cit.* 101.

¹⁰ Ibid. 102.

¹¹ Birch, *Cartul. Sax.* i, 350; Dawson *op. cit.* i, 12, 13. It is, however, difficult to see why such pointless forgeries should

have been made, as there is no trace of any claim being made by the abbey. They probably preserve the tradition of some actual grant.

¹² Liebermann, *Die Gesetze der Angelsachsen*, 158, 159; Dawson, *op. cit.* 549-64.

¹³ *Engl. Hist. Rev.* xxxiii, 342-4.

¹⁴ *Neustria Pia*, 223.

¹⁵ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 486.

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seems to have owed sea service to the Crown. In 1050, apparently at the king's command, they captured two of the ships of Sweyn, Godwin's son, who had murdered Earl Beorn, and after slaying the crews took the ships to King Edward at Sandwich.¹ Again in 1052, after the disturbances at Dover between the townsmen and the followers of Eustace of Boulogne, Godwin and Harold, having control over a great part of the coast of south-east England, persuaded the 'butsecarls' or shipmasters of Hastings to join them against the king.²

The town existing at the Conquest period at the mouth of the Priory stream³ was being gradually swallowed up by the sea and a new town at the mouth of the Bourne Valley was arising to take its place and to serve the castle. The original town possibly stood at or near Bulverhythe, the name of which implies the hythe or harbour of the *burhware* or burgesses.⁴ At Bollington, near or at Bulverhythe, there were in 1086 3 virgates of land held by the Count of Eu in demesne where there were 20 burgesses, who presumably belonged to Hastings.⁵ These 3 virgates may have represented the survival of the earliest borough. If so, its harbour at the estuary of the Asten had become silted up before the Norman Conquest; for we get no mention of Bulverhythe in the Domesday Survey, nor was it a place of any importance when it does appear in history. It is said that 'at one time, about a century ago, the mouth of the Asten was bent eastwards nearly to Hastings',⁶ and this may have been its original course. When the harbour here became useless the seamen made their port eastward at the mouth of the Priory stream where the harbour and town stood at the time of the Conquest. This town was then being destroyed by the encroachment of the sea and a little later became superseded by the present 'old town' below the Castle. The mouth of the Bourne, sheltered by the East and West Hills, which then projected farther seaward, formed the harbour for the new town.

William, while fulfilling his promise to the monks of Fécamp to return the property they had held in the time of Edward the Confessor, wished to retain the sites of Hastings Castle and of the new town which was growing up under it. To compensate the abbey for the loss of this property he gave it in 1085 the 12-hide manor of Bury.⁷ The land taken by the king at Hastings must have been of considerable value judging from the property given in exchange. Fécamp still retained in Hastings in 1086 4 burgesses and 14 bordars,⁸ probably represented in later times by lands in the town held as parcel of the manor of Brede.⁹

Unfortunately the Domesday Survey (1086) throws no light upon the condition of Hastings. Dr. Round suggests that an account of the borough similar to that of Dover, which precedes the Kent survey, has been omitted from the Sussex return.¹⁰ Its equal importance to Dover is illustrated by the fact that Dover in 1086 had the liberties of soc and sac in return for the service of 20 ships for 15 days¹¹ and Hastings had

similar and greater liberties in return for the same services in 1155¹² and possibly long before. The name of New Hastings for the town which grew up under the castle is found in the 12th century, when the expenditure on the works on it and the castle was paid out of the royal exchequer.¹³ The old town in the Priory valley was probably partly submerged early in the 13th century, the chief settlement being then made in the more defensible Bourne Valley.¹⁴

As one of the chief ports of passage to the Continent, the town was at the height of its prosperity at the end of the 11th and during the 12th centuries. William Rufus remained there a month, storm bound, in 1094, on his way to meet his brother Robert in Normandy.¹⁵ Anselm came to give his blessing to the travellers and pleaded unavailingly with the king to stop his oppressions and fill up the vacancies in the abbeys. When waiting here Anselm consecrated Robert Bloet Bishop of Lincoln, in the chapel of St. Mary in the castle.¹⁶ While abroad, William ordered a great army to be assembled at Hastings to be transported to Normandy for his assistance, but Ralph Flambard, seizing the money given for provisions, sent it to the king and ordered the men to return home.¹⁷ The voyages of the men of Hastings sometimes extended farther than across the Channel. In 1148 they formed part of a company that on its way to a Crusade took Lisbon from the Moors and gave it back to King Alfonso. One Gilbert de Hastings was at this time consecrated Bishop of Lisbon.¹⁸

It was probably in 1155 that Henry II confirmed to Hastings the honours in the king's court, which is generally taken to refer to the coronation services performed by the barons of that port, the liberties and quittances of toll, lastage, passage, rivage, sponsage, &c., the privilege of strand and den at Yarmouth, treasure trove, and quittance of all things as free men, with the provision that no one should disturb them under penalty of £10. In return for these liberties they were to find yearly the sea services already referred to of 20 ships for 15 days.¹⁹ The significance of this charter and the position of Hastings as one of the Cinque Ports is dealt with elsewhere.²⁰

Towards the end of the 12th century the decay of the harbour and the superior advantages of the ports of Rye and Winchelsea were causing a decline in the prosperity of Hastings. The barons of Hastings complained in 1199 that the men of Rye and Winchelsea, as members of Hastings port, did not give their accustomed aid towards the sea service, and they had become so enriched that their wealth was harmful to Hastings.²¹ King John ordered that the matter should be inquired into, but the cause of decay was the action of nature and apparently Hastings received no redress, as the charter of Richard I to Rye and Winchelsea was confirmed by John in 1205.²²

The services of Hastings and the other Cinque Ports to the Crown form a part of the national history

¹ *Anglo-Sax. Chron.* sub anno.

² *Ibid.*

³ The evidence for the original position of the town is only circumstantial, based mainly on the group of churches west of Castle Hill: see, Salzman, *op. cit.* 6, 24.

⁴ *Place-Name Soc., Suss.* i, p. xxii.

⁵ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 397.

⁶ See Dr. J. A. Williamson in *History*, July 1926, vol. xi, no. 42, p. 103.

⁷ Round, *Cal. Doc. France*, 38.

⁸ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 391. The 'new

borough' in Rameslie, which has been located in Hastings (*ibid.* 385), was more probably Rye (q.v.).

⁹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiv, 67-9.

¹⁰ *Feud. Engl.* 568.

¹¹ *V.C.H. Kent*, iii, 203.

¹² *Cal. Chart.* 1300-26, p. 221.

¹³ *Pipe R. Soc.* xxxi, 88, 106; xxxii, 138.

¹⁴ The fact that St. Michael appears on the early-13th-century seal of the town suggests that St. Michael's Church, to the west of the Priory stream, was still

regarded as the centre of the town life.

¹⁵ *Anglo-Sax. Chron.* sub anno; *Cal. Chart.* 1300-26, p. 351.

¹⁶ *Eadmer, Hist.* (Rolls Ser.), 47; *Chron. Rog. de Hoveden* (Rolls Ser.), i, 95.

¹⁷ Dawson, *op. cit.* i, 35.

¹⁸ *Mem. Rich. I* (Rolls Ser.), i, pp. clviii, clxxi.

¹⁹ *Cal. Chart.* 1300-26, p. 221.

²⁰ See below, p. 34.

²¹ *Rot. Chart.* (Rec. Com.), vol. i, pt. i, p. 62. ²² *Ibid.* p. 153b.

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and cannot be dealt with here. Tradition alleged that in 1201 the celebrated Ordinances of Hastings relating to Admiralty Jurisdiction and the Sovereignty of the Seas were published at Hastings.¹

The townsmen of Hastings in the early part of the 13th century seem to have favoured John, who in 1213 committed the castle to the custody of three of their barons.² The castle and borough seem both to have been held by the Baronial party in 1216, when John wrote to the barons of Hastings and the other ports endeavouring to bring them back to their allegiance by promising to show favour to them and enrich them with liberties.³ On the death of John the ports seem to have rallied to the support of Henry III, and there is reason to think that the ships of Hastings took part in the defeat of Eustace the Monk off Dover.⁴

In 1218 Henry III ordered the barons of Hastings to render to Robert de Dene the expenses incurred by him in defending their parts in the time of the war.⁵ The town of Hastings had, perhaps, been restored to the Countess of Eu before 1223, when there is a writ addressed to her bailiffs of Hastings, but in 1225 the borough and castle were once more taken into the king's hands.⁶ After the Battle of Evesham in 1265 the townsmen assured Henry III of their loyalty, stating that they had up to that time guarded the town on the king's behalf and would so guard it for ever.⁷

Hastings, with the castle falling into ruin and the inundations of the sea, continued to decrease in prosperity. To compensate for its losses it obtained in 1315 a grant of quayage on all wares brought by water for sale by the men of the town.⁸ The castle (q.v.) had ceased to be a defence to the town. In 1334 and 1336 attacks were expected, and in 1339 the French fleet after burning Portsmouth attacked Hastings and burnt the fishing-boats and a great part of the town.

In 1377 the town again suffered the misfortune of being burnt by the French under Vienne,⁹ and its prosperity continued to decline. It is significant that throughout this century larger contributions to the quota of ships for the King's Navy were made by Winchelsea and Rye than by Hastings itself.¹⁰

Little is heard of the history of Hastings during the 15th century, but the removal of the priory to Warbleton in 1413, owing to the loss of their lands by inroads of the sea, marks a further step in its decline. In Tudor times, as the size of ships increased, its shallow harbour became of still less use. In 1544 it was complained that the town was 'by flux and reflux of the sea and by conflagrations of our enemies . . . reduced to waste, destruction, and poverty',¹¹ and early in the reign of Elizabeth the harbour pier, east of the Castle Rock, was destroyed by storms, to the serious detriment of trade. Nevertheless, a valiant effort was made to meet the danger from the Spanish fleet, and in 1588 the *Anne Bonaventure*, a ship of 70 tons, was fitted up to join the navy, with 11 'crayers' or fishing-boats accompanying her as tenders.¹²

In the 17th century, as men-of-war became differentiated from merchantmen, Hastings was no longer required to supply ships, but money contributions were

substituted, and in 1635 the town was assessed at £410. In 1636 this was reduced to £230, and in 1639 to £29.¹³

In 1690 Hastings again suffered damage from the French, undergoing a slight bombardment, and in that year, after the battle of Beachy Head, the Dutch landed 250 wounded in the town.¹⁴

After the exchange with the *CONSTITUTIONAL* abbey of Fécamp in 1085 *HISTORY* the overlordship of the town seems to have followed the

descent of the castle (q.v.) and, with a few brief exceptions, to have remained in the hands of the Crown. But the community appears to have managed its own affairs without even paying a fee-farm rent for the privilege.¹⁵ The men of Hastings had possibly obtained a considerable amount of independence before the Conquest which continued notwithstanding their subordination to the Abbot of Fécamp, Earl Godwin, and the Count of Eu. The Abbot of Fécamp may have appointed his bailiff to take charge of the borough, but although the bailiff remained the officer of the abbot and the succeeding overlords, he was at an early date elected by the barons or freemen. In 1204 Manasser de Winchelsea gave King John three casks of wine for having the bailiwick of Hastings,¹⁶ but this was probably a special appointment during a disturbed period, for we find no other appointments to the office from the Crown as are to be found with regard to other ports. In 1532, when the king appointed Thomas Stoughton bailiff of Hastings, John Tamworth protested, citing the liberties of the Cinque Ports and alleging that he had been duly elected by the commonalty at the Hundred Place.¹⁷ At Dover, Sandwich, Rye, and Winchelsea part of the government was taken over at the close of the 13th century by a popularly elected mayor who ruled in each of these ports concurrently with the bailiff appointed by the Crown, and at Hythe and Romney, which belonged to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the archbishop as overlord appointed his bailiff and the freemen only chose the twelve jurats, who elsewhere were chosen by the mayors. At Hastings, however, the bailiff acted in the capacity of the representative of the king or overlord, as did the bailiffs at the other ports, and also as the popularly elected mayor. He was also coroner and keeper of the prison. The earliest writs to Hastings are addressed to the barons or to the bailiffs and barons, but the use of the term barons was far from invariable. The custom of Hastings only mentions barons in connexion with the privilege of withernam, but it shows that the freemen exercised the liberties which had been granted to the barons. The bailiff of Hastings chose his twelve jurats and his serjeant and the bailiff and jurats elected the common or town clerk.¹⁸

In 1588 Elizabeth granted a charter to Hastings raising the bailiff to the status of mayor, and endowing the corporation with the lands formerly belonging to Salerne's and Gawthorne's Chantries, to the stipendiaries at the altar of Jesus in St. Clement's Church and in All Saints parish, and to sundry Obits, together with

¹ Dawson, op. cit. 64-6, 105. In the form in which they have survived these ordinances are clearly of later date.

² Ibid. 74-5 n. citing Pat. R. 15 John, mm. 5, 6.

³ Pat. R. 18 John, m. 3, quoted in Dawson, op. cit. 80.

⁴ Salzman, *Hastings*, 21.

⁵ Cal. Pat. 1216-25, p. 141.

⁶ Dawson, op. cit. 83. ⁷ Ibid. 100.

⁸ Cal. Pat. 1313-17, p. 335.

⁹ V.C.H. *Suss.* ii, 139.

¹⁰ Ibid. 191; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* iv, 122.

¹¹ Charter of Hen. VIII; quoted Cousins, *Hastings*, 39.

¹² Cal. S. P. Dom. 1581-90, p. 549.

¹³ V.C.H. *Suss.* ii, 156.

¹⁴ Ibid. 159.

¹⁵ In 1274 'the town', retained by the king (see p. 2), was valued at only $\frac{1}{2}$ mark 'in-amercements'.

¹⁶ Rot. de Oblat. et Fin. (Rec. Com.), 224.

¹⁷ Add. MS. 39379, fol. 213.

¹⁸ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiv, 72.

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the Crown lands known as Stone Beach, Cliff Lands, and others, and the advowson of St. Mary in the Castle. These were to be held by fealty, in free and common socage, paying a yearly rent of £25.¹

The government of Hastings, as already mentioned, was vested in the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of the town and port of Hastings. The mayor (or bailiff) was originally elected on the 'Sunday next after Hock Day',² i.e. the second Sunday after Easter, but this was altered some time before the 19th century to the third Sunday.³ By 1835 the election day had become fixed as the third Monday after Easter.⁴ From 1603 the election took place in the Court Hall instead of in the open Hundred Place, to ensure more privacy.⁵ In 1597 the provision of 1333 that the bailiff could not be re-elected a second year was repealed, but was revived again in 1612.⁶ Later, however, it must have fallen into disuse, for towards the end of the 18th century Edward Milward was mayor for sixteen consecutive years, after having been in office in alternate years for long before that, and his son succeeded him for many years in the 19th century.⁷

In 1597 too, owing to the poverty of the town's finances, the mayors were deprived of their wages, but were also relieved from the obligation of giving a supper on their election day and a breakfast on the morning of Christmas Day.⁸

The freemen or barons of Hastings, who elected the mayor, and from whom the jurats and other officials were chosen, were of right the eldest sons of freemen born after their fathers had taken up their freedom. The mayor and jurats had the power of electing others whom they pleased for life. Freemen were usually admitted at the hundred courts, but instances occur of their admission at the fortnightly Courts of Record, by the usual process of taking the oath and kissing the mayor's right cheek.⁹

Besides the twelve jurats and the serjeant chosen by the mayor, and the town clerk chosen by him and his jurats, there were also appointed annually the town counsel for legal advice, two chamberlains to collect the revenues and keep account of them, eight auditors, and a common serjeant. The mayor's serjeant filled the office of jailer. There were also certain officials appointed by the freemen at the hundred court, viz. the two pier-wardens who collected port duties and fishermen's dues, and superintended the capstans and lights; the two key-keepers for the keys of the corporation chest; the water-bailiff, or bailiff of the Bourne (who was also the common crier), who saw that the Bourne stream running down the centre of the Old Town was kept clear, and that the inhabitants did not 'lay their filth above the full sea mark', and who also collected the market dues. Lastly the 'street driver', who impounded strays and kept the pound.¹⁰ The two last and the pier-wardens lapsed naturally with advancing times, and the duties of the common measurer were superseded by statute. The government is now carried on by the mayor, ten aldermen, and thirty councillors.

The General Assembly of the Corporation, originally

held in the Hundred Place but later in the Court House, met annually for the election of officials and the transaction of corporation business, and, when required, to return members to Parliament. The hundred court was held on the second Sunday after the election of the mayor until 1603, when it was altered to the third Monday¹¹ to avoid profanation of the Sabbath. This court formerly had a jury for presentments of nuisances and other business of an ordinary court leet, but by the 19th century this was rendered unnecessary by local Acts.¹² By charter of Charles II Hastings with the other Cinque Ports was empowered to hold a court of sessions for felonies and 'all other crimes of which any of the Justices of any county have cognizance'.¹³ A Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace was granted in 1836.¹⁴

There was also from early times a fortnightly court on alternate Thursdays for pleas of law, held anciently in the Hundred Place,¹⁵ but later in the Court House, and this became a Court of Record with increased powers under the charter of Charles II. This was mainly concerned with pleas for debt, trespass, and other civil actions. It fell into disuse from 1800 to 1822, when it was revived by a mandamus from the Court of King's Bench. Up to 1835 it took fines, but execution could only be obtained through an officer of the corporation of Dover called the Boder, and this was a source of great vexation and expense.¹⁶

The borough has a Commission of the Peace and a police force. A jail formed part of the medieval Court House, but was pulled down in 1702.¹⁷ The more modern jail, which was in Court House Street close to the old site,¹⁸ was under the control of the mayor and jurats and was visited by them. In 1835 it had a surgeon in attendance, and a person appointed to read a sermon to the prisoners every Sunday, with occasional visits from the rector and curates. It was then stated to be inconvenient, consisting only of an upper room with no courtyard for exercise, and no means of employment, or space for classification of prisoners.¹⁹ Condemned felons in ancient times met their death by drowning, being cast into the water 'beyond a certain watercourse called Stordisdale, on the western part of the town towards Bolewarheth' (Bulverhythe). The use of a gallows was not granted until the reign of Edward IV.²⁰ It was situated in Halton, at the fork of the old London Road and Mount Pleasant. In 1645-6 payment was made for erecting a gallows to execute a woman.²¹ The stocks were originally near the market cross, but were later situated in Bourne Street, by the building now the Methodist chapel.²² The pound still exists.

The 13th-century seal of the borough is *SEALS* round, 3½ in. in diameter. The obverse shows a single-masted ship, with square sail and stern-castle, cutting through a similar ship. The banner of the Cinque Ports is on the prow and that of England on the stern-castle, in which is seen the head of a man in chain armour; another man is by the mast, and the head of a third, also in mail, is visible in the waves at

¹ Ibid. xiv, 99.

² Custumal (*Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiv, 77).

³ Moss, *Hastings*, 131.

⁴ *Munic. Corp. Com.*, pt. ii, 997.

⁵ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii, App. iv,

359.

⁷ Moss, *Hastings*, 137.

⁸ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii, App. iv,

358.

⁹ Ct. Bks.

¹⁰ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii, App. iv,

358.

¹¹ Ibid. 359.

¹² *Munic. Corp. Com.* ii, 1000.

¹³ Moss, *Hastings*, 142.

¹⁴ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii, App. iv,

355.

¹⁵ Custumal (*Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiv).

¹⁶ Ibid.; *Munic. Corp. Com.* ii, 1000.

¹⁷ Cousins, *Hastings*, 148.

¹⁸ Moss, *Hastings*, 156.

¹⁹ *Munic. Corp. Com.* ii, 1001.

²⁰ Custumal; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiv, 73.

²¹ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii, App. iv,

363.

²² Cousins, op. cit. 149.

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the base. Légend: SIGILLVM : COMMVNE BARONYM : DE HASTINGGIS. The reverse bears a bold figure of St. Michael standing on the dragon, into whose mouth he thrusts the end of a cross-headed staff. Legend: DRACO: CRVDELIS : TE VINCIT : VIS : MICHAELIS.

The bailiff's seal, known only from two impressions, was round, 1½ in. diameter, of the 14th century. It bore a shield with the arms of the Cinque Ports but with the middle leopard not dimidiated. Legend: SIGILLVM : OFFICII : BALLIVI : DE : HASTING.¹

The mayor's seal, probably dating from 1589, is a Tudor rendering of the bailiff's seal, with the legend: SIGILLVM . OFFICII . MAIORIS DE HASTING.

There is a pair of maces, given by John, Lord Ashburnham, in 1710, of the usual late type with crowned heads, on which are the arms of Hastings and of the donor, and St. Michael and the ship, as shown on the common seal. The mace of the water-bailiff is in the shape of a plain silver oar with the hall-marks for 1757. A gold mayoral chain was given by Sir Thomas (afterwards Lord) Brassey, and an enamelled armorial badge by Patrick F. Robertson, the Member for the borough. There is also a silver punch-bowl bearing the statement that it was made from the silver staves of the canopies borne over George II and Queen Caroline at their coronation, 11 October 1727, and the names of the canopy-bearers. Two silver loving-cups were given by the Rev. J. A. and Mrs. Hatchard of St. Leonards in commemoration of the jubilee of Queen Victoria.²

Four barons of Hastings were *PARLIAMENTARY* summoned to Simon de Montfort's parliament in 1265.³

Members were regularly summoned to Parliament from the Cinque Ports, including Hastings, from 1322 onwards,⁴ but it is only in 1366 that the two members returned by each port are given for the first time, those for Hastings being William Hinkman and John Thurbarn.⁵ Thereafter Hastings continued to return two members, except in 1371, when only one was sent by each port.⁶

In March 1639-40 complaint was made by 23 of the freemen of the town that on this occasion the mayor had returned one of the two burgesses required, Robert Read, in an arbitrary manner contrary to their free election. Robert Read, besides the recommendation of his friends, had promised to give £20 down for the poor of Hastings, and £10 a year during his life, as well as two barrels of powder yearly 'for exercising the youths'. This had so prejudiced the mayor in his favour that he returned him, in spite of the fact that the freemen only approved the letters of recommendation and not the man himself.⁷

The two members returned to the Long Parliament were both men of families famous in that part of the county, John Ashburnham and Sir Thomas Eversfield. Both were Royalists and had their estates sequestered in 1643, John Ashburnham being the faithful friend and adherent of Charles I who was present at his execution. In the Pensionary Parliament of 1661 the poet Edmund Waller represented Hastings with Denny Ashburnham.⁸

The right of voting was restricted to freemen of the borough, who became so few in number that trouble arose in the early 19th century. In 1830 the discontented ratepayers put forward two candidates of their own, who obtained 120 votes each, but were disqualified in favour of the two corporation candidates, Joseph Planta and Gen. Sir Henry Fane, who were returned with 17 freemen's votes each. In 1832 one popular representative and one from the corporation were returned unopposed. In 1831 the freemen had been increased to 180 resident and 13 non-resident, and by the Reform Bill the electorate was increased from 37 to 574.⁹ In 1885, by the Redistribution of Seats Act, the number of members returned by Hastings was reduced to one.

Members were originally elected in the open hundred court until all elections were transferred to the Court Hall.

The history of Hastings in former days was *PORT* closely bound up with that of its harbour.

This, as has been already stated, underwent various changes of situation. The harbour in the 16th century was protected by a stout timber pier running out in a south-easterly direction from the foot of the Castle Rock, but early in Elizabeth's reign it was much damaged by storms. In 1562 an appeal was made to Cecil for the construction of a better harbour, but nothing was done, and finally in 1578 it was 'by the great violence and extreme rage of the sea broken down and carried away'.¹⁰ In consequence of this the merchant traffic largely deserted Hastings and the fishery was much damaged. Funds were collected under letters patent for its re-erection, but they melted away into private purses. In 1590 a fresh appeal was made, and in 1595 and the following years two attempts were made by men from the 'Cobbe of Lyme' to reconstruct the pier with massive rocks and timber, the second one 30 ft. high and at least 100 ft. long, 'bowtyful to behold, huge, invincible', only to be destroyed in a hour by the sea on All Saints' Day, 1597.¹¹ Attempts at rebuilding were renewed from time to time, but ceased after 1621 for lack of funds, and the remains were washed away in 1656.¹² In 1635 a scheme was proposed for making a haven at the mouth of the Priory stream, and was well reported on by Cranhalls, a Dutch engineer, but in spite of an appeal to the Crown and the levying of a tax for it in 1637 nothing seems to have been done.¹³ The mouth of that stream was rapidly silting up and although in the Corporation Map of 1746 small craft are shown harbouring in it, it is difficult to see how they got above the bridge. By that time the mouth of the stream had been pushed so far east that it ran into the old harbour together with the Bourne, causing considerable backwash.¹⁴ By the beginning of the 19th century it had entirely silted up, and is now built over, its diminished waters flowing into the sea through a pipe. No further attempt at harbour repairs was made until 1834, when a report was made recommending a harbour west of the Priory Bridge, but again nothing was accomplished. In 1893 a company was formed to build a harbour inclosing an area of 24 acres in front of the Stade, and an arm was built

¹ The seals are reproduced in *Suss. Arch. Coll.* i, 16, 24, and xl, 261.

² Jewitt, *Corporation Plate*, ii, 367-70.

³ Rymer, *Foedera*, i, 449.

⁴ *Members of Parl.* i, 66.

⁵ *Ibid.* i, 178.

⁶ *Ibid.* i, 187.

⁷ *Cal. S. P. Dom.* 1639-40, p. 565.

⁸ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxiii, 89-96.

⁹ Salzman, *Hastings*, 102; *Munic. Corp. Com.* ii, 997.

¹⁰ *Cal. S. P. Dom.* 1547-80, p. 198; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiv, 84.

¹¹ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii, App. iv, 357.

¹² *Ibid.* 361; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiv, 89.

¹³ *Ibid.* 91; *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii, App. iv, 362.

¹⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xii, 196.

in front of the fish market, the remains of which may still be seen, but the scheme had to be abandoned. The fishing-boats, as for some centuries past, are drawn up the steep shingle slope on to the Stade by means of capstans.

Two ancient fishery lights were maintained 'from beyond memory', one on the West Hill and the other by the beach. The 'Light steps' at the end of George Street, by the Cutter Inn, originally led up to a wooden erection carrying the harbour light. Half the cost of the fishing lights, capstans, and buoys, and of the repairs to the Stade, were borne by the corporation.¹ The Promade Pier with its light was erected in 1872, and St. Leonards Pier and light in 1891.

The FISHERY has ever been the chief industry of Hastings.² From Saxon times in common with the other Cinque Ports an annual contingent of boats was sent out for the North Sea herring fishery. At the beginning of the 16th century, with the decline of her prosperity, Hastings was sending 30 crayers to sea, but by 1587 only half that number were recorded, with 121 mariners.³ During the following century some improvement is shown, in spite of harbour difficulties, and complaints of encroachment by French fishermen who used 'rash nets'. In 1626 there were 28 vessels, and in 1641 a list of 33 boats is given, ranging from 20 to 30 tons.⁴ In 1602 the fishermen of Rye and Hastings were fined for using unlawful nets and at unlawful times, so that the 'fish disquieted and wanting naturall rest become leane and unserviceable'. Trawl nets were then forbidden, and in 1607 a trial of 'tramell nettes' was made by these two ports and the matter was arranged between them.⁵ Even in those days much of the fish was sent to London, packed in large baskets called 'dossers', the size of which was fixed in 1685 at 7 in. deep, and widening from 12 to 17 in. They were carried on pack-horses, 10 or 12 in a line under charge of one man.⁶ In later times the fishing fleet seems to have been more numerous, but composed of smaller vessels. In 1803 there were 97 boats, and from 1823 to 1833, 50 to 60 boats, averaging 7 to 10 tons, each having three men, or two and a boy.⁷ Early in the present century some improvement took place. In 1903 the fleet consisted of 103 boats, and in 1905 the value of the fish caught annually was returned at £19,000; but at the present time the number of boats is much smaller.

Besides the fishery there was always a certain amount of coastwise trade at Hastings, which still survived into the 19th century, 188 of these coastwise vessels being recorded as entering the port in 1810, and 56 as leaving it. In 1821 the figures were 243 inward and 163 outward; and in 1832, 380 inward and 130 outward. Over 20 trading vessels belonged to the port.⁸ The articles carried outward by these ships were timber, iron, and grain for the neighbouring counties (iron, however, was failing), and timber and coal were imported. Until sea-carriage was superseded by the railway all coal was brought by this means and run ashore with the tide.⁹

The Custom House was originally in the middle of High Street, and was still situated there in 1824.

Before the middle of the century, however, it was removed to the fish market and stood on the site of the present Lifeboat House until it was destroyed by a gale in 1880.

At one time a small industry of silk-TRADES weaving was carried on in Hastings. In 1657 only three mercers were recorded as living in the town,¹⁰ but the occupation survived until late in the 18th century.¹¹ Mercers' Hall, the exchange used by the silk-merchants, stood at the bottom of All Saints Street, and the ground known as Mercers' Bank still belongs to the corporation.

Shipbuilding was carried on at Hastings from early times. Presumably many of the ships provided at the royal demand by Hastings as a member of the Cinque Ports were built on the spot; and in such repute was it held in the 16th century that in 1580 all the towns along the coast from Brighton to the Isle of Thanet were said to have their boats built at Hastings, Rye, and Winchelsea.¹² In 1657 it was decreed that ships should only be built from the West Fort and Waste Beach along towards the priory,¹³ in order, probably, not to interfere with the shipping on the Stade. As late as 1825 the industry was still flourishing, employing a considerable number of hands, and turning out many cutters, sloops, fishing-boats, long boats, &c. The boat-builders were still famous, and their cutters admired for the beauty of their shape.¹⁴ The industry is now practically extinct.

At the beginning of the 19th century lime-burning gave some employment. The kilns were situated west of the Castle Hill, where Wellington Square now stands, and nine sloops brought chalk from Beachy Head to supply them.¹⁵

Rope-walks naturally existed in connexion with the shipping. In 1674 they ran from the West Fort under the Castle Cliff towards the priory, and in 1824 they were still in use on the priory ground nearly parallel to the shore. They were then 120 to 150 fathoms long, and were surrounded by cottages. Before the growth of the new town they occupied the site of what is now Carlisle Parade, and later that of Robertson Street.¹⁶ There was also a rope-walk in the Croft.

The manufacture of pottery, including decorated tiles, was carried on in the early 13th century, as is shown by the discovery of kilns at Bohemia, to the north of St. Leonards.¹⁷

But of all its industries the most flourishing and profitable in the 18th and early 19th centuries was smuggling. The traditions of the mariners of the Cinque Ports, who had been notorious for their lawlessness and piracy, were carried on by their descendants. The smugglers operated in large gangs and fights with the revenue officers are constantly recorded between 1737, when a fatal affray occurred at Bulverhithe, and 1832, when a similar affray took place at St. Leonards. 'Ruxey's crew', which was broken up by the execution of 13 men in 1768, obtained a particularly evil reputation for brutality.¹⁸

Hastings formerly had the right of holding three FAIRS. Two of these, known as the Town Fairs, were held one on Whit Tuesday, and the other on the

¹ *Munic. Corp. Com.* ii, 1002.

² *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 264-7.

³ *Ibid.* ii, 145, 151.

⁴ *Ibid.*; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiv, 95.

⁵ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii, App. iv,

124, 133, 135, 139.

⁶ *Ibid.* 362.

⁷ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 460; Moss, op. cit. 160.

⁸ *Munic. Corp. Com.* ii, 1004.

⁹ Moss, op. cit. 144.

¹⁰ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xii, 197.

¹¹ Moss, op. cit. 143.

¹² *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii, App. iv,

76.

¹⁴ Moss, op. cit. 144; Diplock, *Guide*, 6th edit.

¹⁵ Moss, op. cit. 144.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* 148; Cole, op. cit. 154.

¹⁷ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xi, 230.

¹⁸ Salzman, *Hastings*, 82-7

¹³ *Ibid.*

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

26th and 27th of July, known as the Rock Fair, was held on the priory ground near the White Rock, and was therefore probably of ancient connexion with the priory. In 1582 this fair was not held on account of danger from the Plague.¹ The third was held on St. Clement's Day, 23rd November. All of them survived until the 19th century, when the two Town Fairs were held in the fish market, but they seem to have lapsed soon after 1860.²

Markets were held twice a week, on Wednesdays and Saturdays, for cattle, meat, and country produce. The market cross stood at the head of the Old Town at the junction of High Street and All Saints Street, and there the markets were held for many centuries. By 1824, however, they had been moved to the vicinity of the Town Hall, then in High Street, and were amply supplied with Southdown mutton.³ Ten years later the Wednesday market had fallen into disuse, and the remaining one for produce was held in the new market erected in George Street in 1833, under the Improvement Act of 1832.⁴ In 1835 the meat market in High Street, the dues of which pertained to the corporation, was on the point of being discontinued.⁵ At one time the cattle market and shambles were situated in Hill Street, by St. Clement's Church, called 'the Butchery' in the 16th century.⁶

The corn market in 1824 was held at the Swan Inn, on Saturdays, but was also once in Hill Street.⁷ Latterly it was held in the Market Hall, George Street, and it continued to exist until the winter of 1932-3.

The only remaining market now is the fish market, formerly held on the open beach, but since 1880 in the covered market at the west end of the Stade.

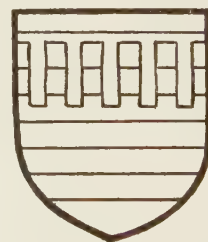
There is no reason to think that a fortification existed at Hastings before William threw up his castle in September 1066 prior to the Battle of Hastings and placed it under the command of Humphrey de Tilleul.⁸ The making of the castle is represented on the Bayeux Tapestry. The site of the first castle has been questioned. The Hon. F. H. Baring suggests that it was of a temporary character, built of timber ready cut and landed from William's ships.⁹ He argues that the site on Castle Hill some 180 ft. above the shore was unsuitable to protect the fleet or to cover a retreat if the expedition were unsuccessful, and that the water-supply there would not be sufficient for an army of even 5,000 men. He suggests that the castle of 1066 was on land now submerged, west of the creek which ran up from the sea on the west side of Castle Hill.¹⁰ Whether Castle Hill, which has all the requirements for a medieval castle, was selected by William or by Robert Count of Eu, to whom the castelry was granted about 1069, cannot be proved. It may be pointed out, however, that the Bayeux Tapestry shows the construction of a mount and bailey castle here; but in fact this could hardly have been done in the time at William's disposal. Mr. Baring calls attention to the fact that the north wall of the nave of the chapel of St. Mary originally

built by Count Robert¹¹ (1069-90), which forms the wall of the castle, is thinner and presumably older than the rest of the castle walls, which were not built of masonry for nearly a century later.

The Counts of Eu were constantly conspiring and rebelling against the kings of England and as a consequence the castle was seldom out of the king's hands.¹² William Count of Eu (1090-6) conspired against William II and we find the castle in the king's hands in 1088. His son Henry (1096-1140) rebelled against Henry I. John Count of Eu (1140-70) sided with King Stephen, but his son joined the rebellion of the young King Henry son of Henry II about 1173. Thus for a century and a quarter after the death of Robert Count of Eu in 1090 the castle seems to have been generally in the king's hands. Henry II certainly in 1161 held the castle, and the cost of provisioning it was made at the king's expense.¹³ Henry was much of his time in Normandy, and it was necessary to keep the lines of communication open during the disturbances regarding the dispute with Becket and the conspiracy of the young King Henry. In 1167 the castle was again fortified and provisioned by Henry II,¹⁴ and from 1171 to 1174 the Crown was carrying on considerable building operations, which included the erection of the masonry tower or keep in 1172. At the same time the castle was provisioned and manned by the king.¹⁵ In 1182 and 1183 large sums were spent in building work of the castle described as the Castle of New Hastings¹⁶ and again in 1190, 1191, and in 1192¹⁷ the money was paid by the Abbot of Fécamp on behalf of the Crown to Alvred de St. Martin, who had married Adeline widow of John Count of Eu and was sheriff of the rape,¹⁸ both for works and manning of the castle. In 1194 to 1197 there are items in the exchequer accounts for garrisoning, building, and repairing the castle,¹⁹ and in 1199 Stephen de Turnham was paid for provisions for it.²⁰ The castle was then in the hands of



ENGLAND. *Gules three leopards or.*



LUSIGNAN, Count of EU. *Barry of eight pieces argent and azure a label of five points gules.*

the Crown and so continued until it was returned to the Count and Countess of Eu in 1214. In 1213 John had committed the castle to Walter Scot, Alexander de Norwich, and William de Farley, barons of Hastings, during pleasure.²¹ The Count of Eu, however, actually had possession of the castle for a very short time; for in September 1215 the king appointed Aubrey de

¹ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii, App. iv, 82.

² Cousins, op. cit. 120, 226. They are recorded in Owen's *Book of Fairs*, 1859 edit., with the addition of one on 11 Oct., of which there is no other record.

³ Moss, op. cit. 169.

⁴ Cousins, op. cit. 261.

⁵ *Munic. Corp. Com.* ii, 1002.

⁶ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxvi, 178-9.

⁷ Moss, op. cit. 169; Cole, op. cit. 160.

⁸ *Ordericus Vitalis*, bk. iv, cap. iv.

⁹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lvii, 120-1, quoting the Battle Abbey Chron. and Wace.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* 121-4.

¹¹ *Ibid.*; Anct. D. (P.R.O.), D. 1073.

¹² Cf. *Sim. of Durham* (Rolls Ser.), i, 189.

¹³ *Pipe R. Soc.* iv, 14.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* xi, 36, 37.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* xvi, 128; xviii, 129, 130; xix,

24, 25, 29; xxi, 117, 118.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* xxxi, 88, 106; xxxii, 138.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* (N.S.), i, 127; ii, 56, 205-6.

¹⁸ Lower, *Battle Abbey Chron.* 183.

¹⁹ *Pipe R. Soc.* (N.S.) v, 229; vi, 240; vii, 20, 81.

²⁰ *Ibid.* x, 59.

²¹ *Rot. Litt. Pat.* (Rec. Com.), i, 106; Dawson, op. cit. i, 74-5.



HASTINGS CASTLE, FROM THE EAST

THE RAPE AND HONOUR OF HASTINGS BOROUGH OF HASTINGS

Den and Godfrey de Crampe to keep it and the ports of Rye and Winchelsea with the parts adjoining. The king manned the castle at his own expense, for the knights of the rape of Hastings who owed military service at the castle had sided with the barons of the realm, as we learn from the safe conduct offered them to come to treat with the king for his peace.¹ In 1216 John took a great army to Winchelsea, where he met the legate Gualo; thence he went to Winchester, destroying, it is said, the castles of Pevensey and Hastings on the way.² What is meant by the destruction of the castle is not clear. Probably it was dismantled and made indefensible for the time; certainly in the next few years considerable repairs were carried out upon it. The Crown for the safety of the kingdom had to resume possession of the castle from the Countess of Eu in 1225 until there should be peace with France, and then the Countess or her heirs should pay 500 marks for what was expended by the king in strengthening the castle.³ The revolt of Falkes de Bréauté and the expedition to Gascony necessitated the strengthening of the castle, and Alexander de Bassingburn was appointed constable of the castle, which was garrisoned, repaired, and put in a state of defence.⁴ The castle was committed to Peter of Savoy and Edward son of Henry III from 1249 to 1268, but except for this period was in the king's hands and maintained by him until 1331. During this period it was in charge of a government official who in the more peaceful time was a king's clerk but in times of disturbance was a military officer. Throughout the disturbed reign of Edward II the constable of Hastings Castle, as those of other castles throughout England, was called upon to keep it garrisoned and provisioned.

In 1331 owing to the encroachments of the sea the grounds of the castle lay open and uninclosed, so that the dean and chapter of the king's free chapel within the castle complained that not only were their buildings destroyed by the sea but they were robbed night and day of relics, ornaments, and treasure and their ministers beaten and wounded. After inquiry, Edward III gave the dean and chapter the custody of the castle, except in the time of war. They were authorized to inclose it with a wall and gates and build dwelling-houses for themselves and take the herbage of the castle towards the cost of such work.⁵ The arrangement, however, did not answer, for, at the outbreak of the Hundred Years' War in 1339, the French galleys entered the port and plundered the defenceless castle and the chapel and its houses. As it was reported that a renewal of the attack was likely,⁶ the Earl of Surrey, who had charge of the Sussex coast, was ordered to send a force to protect the castle,⁷ and William de Percy was appointed warden during the war.⁸ The dual control of the ecclesiastical and military authorities was not satisfactory, and we find the chaplains complaining that the warden prevented them from inhabiting their houses and performing divine service, and stopped pilgrims from visiting the chapel.⁹ The warden was therefore ordered not to interfere with the chaplains, provided the castle was safely guarded.¹⁰

The attack on the castle raised the question as to those who owed castle-guard.¹¹ An inquiry showed that some 18 manors were held of the honour of Hastings by a yearly rent of £21 11s. 3½d. called 'Castelwarde', which the Duke of Brittany as grantee of the honour received; but he did neither ward nor anything for the castle. Further, the king committed the custody of the castle sometimes to one person and sometimes to another without reference to the duke.¹² The castle being of little military value, the matter was allowed to drop.

The chaplains in the castle, free from ecclesiastical visitation, seem to have been unpopular with the townsmen. It was reported in 1343 that evil-disposed people had obtained entry at night over the walls by ladders, held the chapel by armed force, imprisoned the chaplains, and stolen the books and ornaments there.¹³ This same trouble occurred again in 1366, when a 'great multitude of evil doers', obviously from their names townsmen of Hastings, were accused of besieging the castle night and day, imprisoning the king's ministers serving God in the free chapel, as they came out of the castle, assaulting others and charging the men of the town by public proclamation not to give them victuals under pain of imprisonment.¹⁴

The castle remained with the ministers of the free chapel until 1399, when Henry IV granted it to Ralph Earl of Westmorland for life.¹⁵ We know that the ministers of the free chapel neglected their own buildings and there seems every probability they allowed the castle to fall into decay. The incessant encroachments of the sea were also doing considerable damage to the castle, which seems to have ceased to be a building of defence. Its descent from this date followed that of the barony (q.v.).

The structural remains are fragmentary, consisting chiefly of those of the **HASTINGS CASTLE** Collegiate Church of St. Mary and the north and east curtain walls with an east gatehouse and bastions.

A full history and description of the Castle and Church by Charles Dawson was published in 1909 with plans and many illustrations.¹⁶ He quotes most if not all of the reports made by William Herbert, who conducted excavations in 1824 for the owner, the Earl of Chichester. Mr. Dawson and Mr. John Lewis, F.S.A., who produced the plan, also made a few slight excavations, chiefly to check statements made by Mr. Herbert, because some of the foundations which the latter claimed to have discovered were buried again.

The history of the castle has already been given, the main points to be borne in mind being the probable erection of the first masonry defences by Count Robert of Eu, followed very shortly by the building of the church—before 1094; the building, or repair, of the keep by Henry II; the slighting of the castle by John in 1216 and its subsequent repair under Henry III and, probably more extensively, by Peter of Savoy. After this the story is one of progressive ruin and decay so far as the fortifications are concerned, and all that is known of the architectural history of the college is

¹ Close R. 17 John, m. 14.

² *Annales Mon.* (Rolls Ser.), iii, 46.

³ Pat. R. 9 Hen. III, pt. i, m. 11 d.

⁴ See orders as to repairs, &c., Dawson, op. cit. 86-8.

⁵ *Cal. Pat.* 1330-4, p. 71.

⁶ *Ibid.* 1338-40, p. 258.

⁷ *Cal. Close*, 1339-41, p. 215.

⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1338-40, p. 271.

⁹ A miraculous crucifix in the chapel was an object of pilgrimage during the 14th century: *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 115. Edward II and Queen Isabelle made offerings to it in June 1315: *Exch. K.R. Accts.* 375, no. 20.

¹⁰ *Cal. Close*, 1339-41, pp. 293, 298.

¹¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1338-40, p. 287.

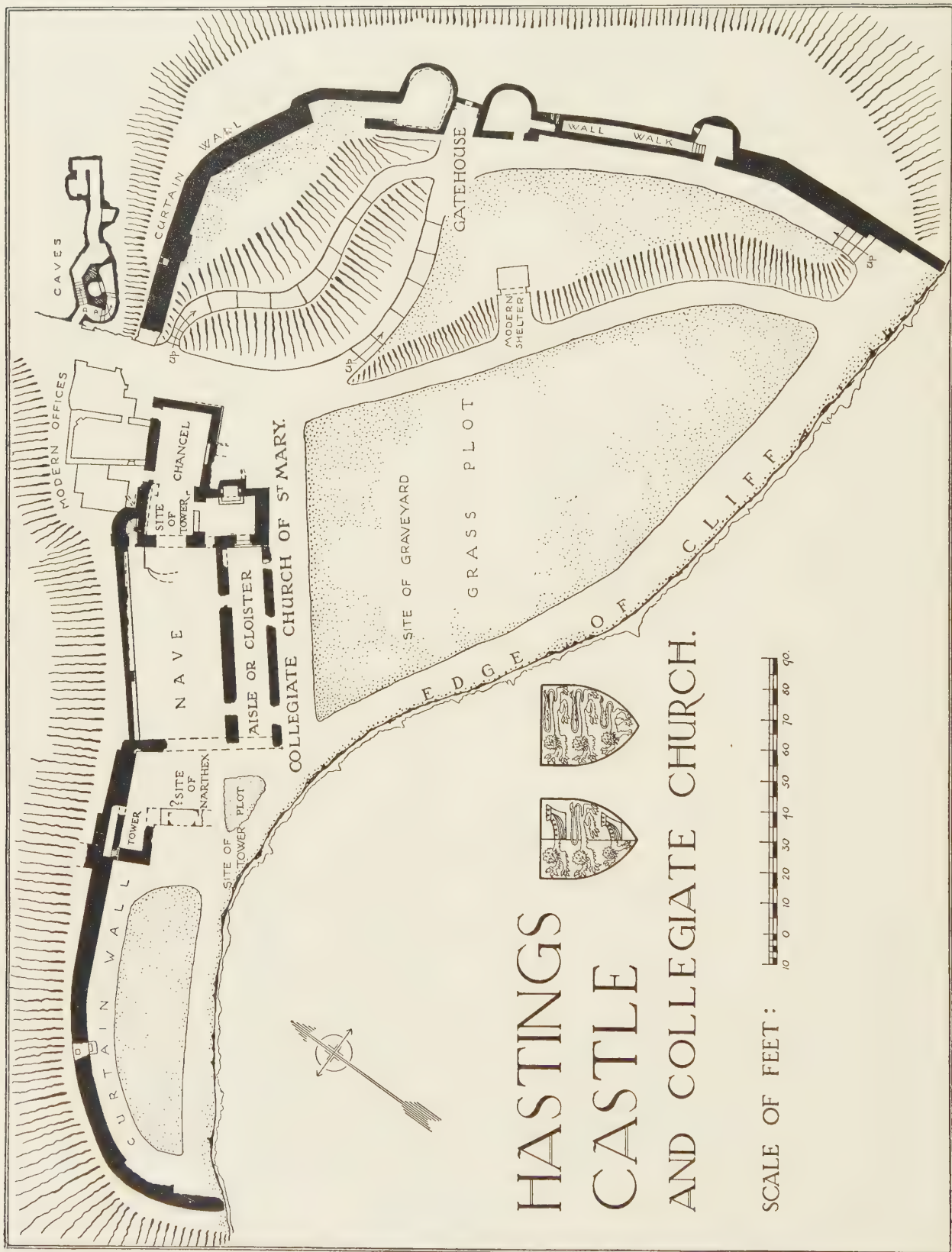
¹² *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, no. 1646.

¹³ *Cal. Pat.* 1343-5, p. 79.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* 1364-7, p. 369.

¹⁵ See above, p. 3.

¹⁶ The plan of the church is partly conjectural.



THE RAPE AND HONOUR OF HASTINGS

BOROUGH OF
HASTINGS

that in 1407 the houses of the vicars, west of the church, had been rebuilt, but those of the dean and canons 'below' the castle were in ruins.¹

When the church and its property was granted to Sir Anthony Browne in 1547 an inquiry was made as to the falling down owing to the 'fretting and raging of the sea', and it was found that the buildings had so far gone that it was difficult to identify them. The ecclesiastical and collegiate buildings, when entire, were said to have been the church, a chapter-house, a cloister, a room for the reception of pilgrims, a deanery house, prebendal residences, habitations for the vicars and chaplains, a grammar school, a choir school, and a bell-tower. There were also a churchyard, a garden on the castle mount, a second garden on the south side of the gate, and certain vaults on the east side of the same occupied as stables. All stood within the walls at the south-west side of the church or at the entrance of the outer courtyard next the castle gate, separated from the military buildings as well as from the inner courtyard by the churchyard and garden, probably by a wall or fence.²

The ground became littered with fallen fragments and the surface rose to cover nearly all traces of the church, &c. All that was visible in the 18th century was the west tower, the fragment containing the newel staircase, and the curtain wall. In the excavations of 1824, however, the foundations of the church were brought to light as now seen. The eastern arch of the nave had fallen in one piece and, after an attempt to raise it bodily had failed, it was taken to pieces and carefully rebuilt. Herbert claimed to have discovered also the site of the chapter-house (north of the chancel) and the deanery and other residences, but the foundations were covered up again. He also exposed the east gate and the half-round bastions. No traces of the walls of a keep were found, but Herbert thought that the remains of a pavement near the cliff edge indicated its site. Dawson throws doubt on this evidence. Several stone-lined graves were found with human remains. During the clearance large pieces of masonry, lying about, were broken up and tumbled into the ditches because they interfered with the digging. One of these pieces was 25 ft. long by 3 ft. high by 7 ft. thick. In the 19th century the face of the cliffs below the castle was still farther cut back to make room for the modern church of St. Mary and other buildings, but there is no evidence that any masonry was destroyed thereby. The ruins are now being more carefully tended, but some of the masonry on the tops of the east curtain and the bastions is continually being dislodged by the feet of visitors. On the evidence of the masonry itself it would appear that the earliest existing remains are the lower parts of the north curtain wall, built of thin rubble-stones, which may have been erected before the end of the 11th century. The upper parts of the wall of yellow sandstone rubble are later additions or repairs. The part around the castle mount, of coursed ashlar, may be assigned to the 12th century, perhaps the work referred to in 1171. The church must have been begun fairly soon after the Norman occupation, judging from the herring-bone coursing in the north wall of the central tower, but probably the nave, &c., were a little later—temp. Henry I. The western narthex or courtyard and two western towers were probably the last works of the Norman period, the

northern tower covering the window of the earlier sally-port passage in the curtain wall.

The repairs by Henry III after the damage of 1216 included some to the church, of which the chief remaining evidence is the fine archway between the nave and central tower, dating from c. 1225. The chancel, which is deflected much to the south, was probably rebuilt at the same time. Other evidence of the development of the building is now lost.

The following is a description of the walls as they exist at present.

The chancel—about 25 ft. by 16 ft. internally—has an east wall of mixed sandstone rubble, which stands about 6 ft. above the present rough floor: it has ashlar dressings in the re-entering angles, but no traces of a window remain. The north wall of the chancel is also of mixed ironstone and sandstone and stands up to 8 or 9 ft. in height. There is a broken gap at the east end. Farther west are the remains of the doorway that opened into the alleged chapter-house: some of the dressings of the west jamb are left at the foot: the east jamb is rough. The south wall is roughly 7½ ft. high. It contains the remains of a recessed sedile with one moulded stone and weather-worn base of the west jamb: also one stone of the seat. The wall is of rubble; a break outside may have been a former buttress.

The central tower was about 14 ft. square internally. The east wall with an archway into the chancel is indicated only by a few stones in the soil. The north wall rises in part to about 35 ft. The lower facing to a height of about 9 ft. has been removed internally, but, above this, part of the original facing is still left, beginning with two courses of early-12th-century herring-bone rubble of which about 4 ft. remains. At the north-west angle is a vice or winding staircase with a 20-in. central newel:³ of this the lower steps still exist to a height of about 12 ft. where the wall is gapped on the south face. Above this the wall is broken away on the south face and there are traces of former loop lights. The south side evidently had an archway opening into the south chapel: some of the stones of its square responds remain, but it was afterwards closed up with a thinner wall in which was a doorway with square jambs of which the base-stones remain. The rebuilt western arch of the tower, opening into the nave, has dressed responds of Caen stone worked with edge-rolls which have moulded bases and carved capitals below the moulded imposts. The arch is two-centred and of two moulded orders with keeled edge-rolls. The outer order springs from the moulded imposts. The inner order is carried on corbel-capitals carved with foliage and with the moulded imposts as abaci. It is of early-13th-century date and all much weather-worn. The walling about and above the arch is mostly of small squared stones of the Norman period. Towards the nave, north of the archway, is the entrance to the stair-vice with dressed jambs and a rough modern lintel. Another, south of the archway, opens into the south chapel, also with a large lintel of modern setting.

The nave, about 63 ft. by 29 ft., has its north wall approximately in line with the main curtain wall and standing about 12 to 15 ft. high. Though defaced inside it retains at the east end the remains of the voussairs of two round heads of a 12th-century wall-arcade or series of recesses. At the foot of the wall is rough projecting masonry suggesting the riser of a bench or seats to the

¹ *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 116.

² Dawson, *op. cit.* 497.

³ The newel here, as in the stair turret of Guestling church, is separate, as distinguished from the later method of forming stair and newel in one piece.

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recesses.¹ Farther west is a shallow projecting pilaster probably to receive a former vault-rib or roof-truss.

Of the south wall of the nave only about 5 ft. of height is standing. It had a stone bench against it and may have also been recessed, but of this no evidence is visible. Two gaps indicate former doorways to the cloister. Only foundations are left of the west wall with a gap for the middle doorway.

The south chapel—about 13 ft. east to west by 16 ft.—has an eastern altar-recess, 5 ft. 2 in. wide and 3 ft. 8 in. deep: it projects externally. Its north internal angle has dressed stones and the rear voussoirs of the round arch still remain in place, but the front voussoirs have disappeared. The back has some remains of plaster. There are small recesses in the stone reveals. The south re-entering angles have sandstone dressings; the south wall stands to a height of 6–7 ft. The west wall is little more than foundations except where the doorway from the nave pierces it. A doorway or archway 5 ft. 9 in. wide opened into the south cloister; of this there remains two or three of the lowest dressed stones and steps in the threshold.

The south aisle or cloister (11 ft. wide) has in the east end of its north wall some thin voussoirs of another wall-arch or recess, perhaps one of a series, the facing stones missing. Some slight remains of plaster exist in the back. The south wall, reduced to foundations, has gaps where existed two doorways. There are said to have been traces of a porch to the western, but none now remains.

West of the nave was apparently a narthex.² The foundations in the soil, as seen, are not very definite and, as Dawson remarks, 'they appear to have been much disturbed' and 'foundations of walls of a later period' are 'hopelessly' mixed with the earlier foundations. A gap indicates a west doorway. Its north wall was also the curtain and is a good piece of ashlar inside. In it is a doorway to a sally-port, the lower parts of the jambs of rubble, the upper of ashlar. The passage in the wall extends westward and had a doorway in the outer face, now blocked, and a small window in the inner wall.

West of the narthex are the remains of the north-west tower, the west half still standing to a good height, the east half entirely missing. It was of two or three stories, and built of rubble of local stone, ironstone, and some flints. The west wall abuts the north curtain wall with a 'straight joint' and covers the small window which lighted the earlier sally-port passage. The upper part of the north wall of the tower rests on the curtain wall. In the west wall of the upper story is a single-light window, mostly gapped but retaining its round rear-arch. There are slight indications that another existed in the south wall.

There are now no traces of the sister tower, 19 ft. to the south, discovered by Herbert and confirmed by Dawson, nor of the deanery and other buildings said to have existed here.

A chamber north of the chancel and central tower is identified by Herbert and Dawson as the chapter-house. Its site is now mostly occupied by modern buildings, west of the north gateway, but in an unroofed part next to the stair-vice, north of the central tower, there still exist the springing-stones of the webbing of the south-west angle of the former groined vault to the chamber.

In the modern buildings—porter's lodge, &c.—are incorporated some early-13th-century details including a window, or upper half of a doorway now a window, with moulded jambs and segmental pointed arch, and another pointed window with dog-tooth ornament in the mouldings; also a doorway with moulded jambs and head.

In the soil of the cloister are some stone graves or coffins and at the west end is a plain stone coffin-lid. Against the north pilaster on the nave is set a short length of a shaft on which is a dish stone, probably a holy-water stoup. There are many loose stones lying about in the grounds by the porter's lodge, mostly with mouldings and carvings. They probably belonged to the church and include pieces of 13th-century window and door-jambs, a small moulded corbel-capital, a square capital carved with foliage, a length of 8 in. round shaft, and pieces of moulded and carved string-course. A modern arbour in the grounds also has some ancient stones built in the walls, including a 13th-century moulding with 'dog-tooth' ornament and the moulded base of a small shaft.

The north curtain wall extends westward from the nave of the church and eastwards from the north gateway. Between these points runs the much repaired north wall of the nave. Apparently the curtain wall was interrupted altogether by the former chapter-house which flanked the side of the former north gatehouse.

West of the nave the curtain served as the north side of the narthex and lowest story of the north-west tower and contains the sally-port already mentioned. The outer wall of the passage-way projects externally and has a fair rubble face.

West of the tower the lowest part of the curtain (about 1 yard high) is of ancient thin rubble internally, and above this it is of yellow sandstone rubble: externally it is of sandstone rubble and some ironstone. Farther west is the outlet of a garde-robe: the wall is gapped above it, probably for a former window to one of the residences and for the garde-robe itself which has now disappeared. The wall continues west of the gap, in yellow ashlar, curving round southwards to the edge of the cliff, where its end has been repaired.

East of the church was the main gatehouse, but of this no fabric remains except possibly the lower part of the eastern side-wall projecting outward from the curtain wall and containing the doorway to the 'dungeons'.

East of the gateway the wall rises and curves round the castle-mount, which stands some 30 ft. above the general internal level, the wall rising some 20 ft. above that. The wall is about 7 to 8 ft. thick. The old facing internally is of good coursed ashlar with much patching of later date. One rough slight projection high up suggests that there was some sort of cross wall; possibly for a stairway or garde-robe or both. There is certainly an outlet to a former garde-robe about 25 ft. east of the gateway. Although Herbert found no traces of any internal foundations on the mount it is possible that the curtain here was part of a shell-keep.

From the mount southwards the wall is rubble and includes the eastern gatehouse, flanked by bastions, all work probably of the first half of the 13th century. Between the mount and the gateway the wall is broadened to about 11½ ft. (projecting externally) to

¹ Herbert in 1824 said there were traces of eight 'recesses for the stalls of canons' of which the easternmost was

wider than the others.

² In the 14th century the two sacrist's slept in an upper chamber at the west of

the chapel and had another room on the ground floor by the door: *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 115.

take a rampart walk or wall—passage 4 ft. 9 in. wide. A fair face at the north end of the inner skin suggests that the entrance was from the higher level of the mount. The gateway has lost its arch and vault, only the side walls of ashlar remaining: they contain the dressed jambs which have the grooves for the portcullis, and on the south side a deep socket for a drawbar. The space is now closed by a modern wall with a doorway. The flanking bastions, which project outside in half-round plan and are built of ashlar, appear to have been solid in the lower parts, level with the pathway, but had chambers in the upper parts. Nothing remains of the upper story of the north bastion into which the wall passage opened, but the south bastion has some remains now forming a rough-topped low parapet. Off the south side of the chamber in the thickness of the curtain wall was a garde-robe, and below, outside, is its outlet, now blocked.

The curtain wall south of the gatehouse is about 7½ ft. thick and stands about 9 ft. high above the ground outside. The ground inside is terraced against it. The wall also contains a passage-way or walk about 4 ft. wide in the thickness of the wall and extending about 44 ft. southwards from the back of the garde-robe until it meets the southern bastion, where there are rough steps down.

The bastion is semicircular outside like the others, but has a straight-sided chamber with canted north and south walls. It had a barrel vault originally, of which a few springing stones remain on the south side. There were narrow loops on the north and south sides. South of the bastion the wall is of the same thickness and built of rubble. It shows no signs of a wall passage, which may, however, have been at a higher level. It is finished with thinner modern repairs at the edge of the cliff. No remains exist at the position suggested by Herbert for the keep.

Outside the curtain wall, cut in the side of the north-east mount, is excavated a curious series of small galleries or passages and chambers known as the 'Dungeons'. Their plan is irregular and they extend into the rock eastwards some 47 or 48 ft., and the passages are only about a yard in width; they have round arched vaults and are entered through a doorway by the north gate, whence the longer gallery forks to the left down a stair which was badly worn when first discovered but now has modern treads. The passage at the bottom is deflected to the right, to an arched recess on the south side. Thence it extends eastwards about 25 ft., beginning with a curve to the north and going on straight until it meets a right-angled bend to the north. By the curved part, on the south side, is another round-headed recess of less height than the passage. At the east end, also on the south side, is the outline in the rock for another recess. The right-angled bend at the end is a passage, only 9 ft. long, off the west side of which is a domed chamber 7½ ft. wide by 6 ft. deep. Off the space within the entrance is a shorter excavation

leading to the right or south, down a short winding stair to a narrow chamber some 10 ft. long and 4 ft. at the widest: this has a small round cell off its north side cut in the space between it and the longer gallery. The borings are not of any depth with regard to the ground level outside; in fact the upper crust seems to have been broken through more than once. The whole work seems to have been an early attempt, soon abandoned, to burrow under the castle mount for storage or other purposes, and their subsequent use as 'dungeons' or prison cells, if a fact, was merely fortuitous.¹

GENSING [Ganesing (xii cent.); *Gene-MANORS* synges, Gensynge (xiii to xv cent.)]. The name of this manor, which has been absorbed by the town of St. Leonards, is commemorated in Gensing Gardens and Road. In 1832 Gensing Farm was situated on the hill behind the two rows of houses then constituting the township.² The manor was originally held of the lord of the rape as part of the nine fees formerly held by Peter de Scotney,³ but in the 15th century became a sub-infeudation of the manor of Crowhurst, of which it was held for a quarter fee.⁴

The tithes of Gensing were granted to the church of St. Mary in the Castle, Hastings, by the Count of Eu.⁵

The quarter fee of Gensing is first mentioned in the 14th century, but the family of that name was probably in possession from an early date. The name of William de Gensing occurs in a charter dated between 1189 and 1219,⁶ and another William was keeper of the Hundred of Baldslow in 1265.⁷ Gilbert de Gensing had property in Crowhurst, the head manor, in 1296,⁸ and was probably identical with the Gilbert who held the quarter fee in 1320.⁹ Before 1327 he was succeeded by Robert de Gensing, who was living in 1332.¹⁰ The latter left two daughters and co-heirs, Pernel and Agnes, of whom Pernel married John Read, who was holding the manor in 1339 and 1343.¹¹ She left a daughter Joan, wife of Richard de Ore,¹² and their daughter Amice married John Halle the elder, who was holding the manor in 1411.¹³ In 1413 Amice and John were holding a moiety of the manor of Gensing, of which the other moiety was held by John Pelham, son of Amice's great-aunt Agnes.¹⁴ Gensing continued to descend in the Halle family, and about 1469 was owned by Henry Halle, who held it of John Pelham of Crowhurst Manor.¹⁵ Robert Halle died seised of the manor in 1540 and was succeeded by his son William,¹⁶ but Godard, son and heir of William, conveyed the manor in 1545 to Richard Sackville, in whose family it remained until conveyed by the trustees of Thomas Sackville, Lord Buckhurst, to Nicholas Eversfield in 1612.¹⁷ From that date Gensing descended in the Eversfield family in the same manner as Yielding (q.v.) and still remains part of the Eversfield estates.

STONE, a prebend attached to the chapel of St. Mary in the Castle, Hastings, was a small, straggling manor with lands in the parishes of St. Mary and of Whatlington,¹⁸ seven miles north-west of Hastings, and

¹ They were described by the Rev. E. Marshall in *Notes and Queries*, 5th Ser., vol. vii (1877), and again more fully with plans by John Lewis in 1894 in *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xl. The former read much meaning into sundry marks, holes, and worn steps which he attributed to the movements of fettered prisoners, and said there were charcoal fires for lethal purposes, but Lewis throws doubt on most of this.

² *Boundary Rep.* v, 51.

³ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 405.

⁴ Dawson, op. cit. i, 295; *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 1858; Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 431.

⁵ *Cat. Anc. Deeds*, iii, D. 1073.

⁶ *Cal. Doc. France*, 53.

⁷ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* i, 911.

⁸ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* (Subsidies), x, 6.

⁹ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 405.

¹⁰ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* (Subsidies), x, 212, 324.

¹¹ *Coll. Top. et Gen.* vii, 119; *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 1858.

¹² *Originalia R.* 36 Edw. III, m. 30.

¹³ Dawson, *Hastings Castle*, i, 242.

¹⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxix, 63. It was probably from this time that Gensing was held of Crowhurst, the possession of John Pelham.

¹⁵ Dawson, op. cit. i, 295.

¹⁶ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xiv, 523.

¹⁷ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 179; xx, 331; xxxiii, no. 23.

¹⁸ Dawson, op. cit. ii, 464.

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the name is retained in Stonefield Road, just below the castle.

The prebend is first mentioned in an inquisition of 1274, when it was valued at 3½ marks.¹ It is not mentioned in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, but it appears to have been granted to Sir Anthony Browne with the other lands of the free chapel, probably under the name of 'Stonelands',² as the 'manor of Stone', with that of Battle and others, was conveyed by Sir Anthony's descendant, Anthony Viscount Montagu, to Sir Thomas Webster in 1721.³ It was still held by the Websters in 1790,⁴ and probably remained with their property.

The earliest mention of *YIELDING*⁵ is in 1411, when Richard Levett was assessed for lands in Catsfield and Yielding worth £10.⁶ Presumably it remained in the Levett family, as in 1534 John Levett died seised of the manor of Yielding.⁷ By a previous settlement⁸ the manor was vested in trustees for the use of his son John, who came into full possession of the property, then worth £6, held of the manor of St. Leonards,⁹ in 1548. He died in 1556¹⁰ leaving Lawrence Ashburnham, who afterwards married his widow, as guardian to his son Lawrence, a minor.¹¹ Lawrence Levett held a court in his own right in 1565¹² and on his death in 1586 without children his sister Mary, wife of Thomas Eversfield of the Grove, Hollington, became his heir.¹³ She died childless in 1608¹⁴ and was succeeded by Thomas Eversfield, her stepson, on whom the manor had been settled in 1589.¹⁵ Thomas held the manor till his death in 1612, when the property passed to his son Nicholas,¹⁶ who was high sheriff of the county in 1619 and who died in 1629 leaving a son and heir Thomas and five younger sons.¹⁷ On the death of Thomas, John Eversfield his brother succeeded, and he held the manor certainly until 1667.¹⁸ From him it passed to Charles Eversfield, his grandson, who held courts there in 1703 and 1729,¹⁹ and was Member of Parliament in 1710. His eldest son Sir Charles Eversfield died unmarried in 1784, after which his estates passed to his surviving sister Olive, and on her death in 1803 to her nephew William Markwick, son of another sister Mary and James Markwick. William took the name of Eversfield, and the manor was held successively by his sons Charles (d. 1818) and



EVERSFIELD. Ermine a bend sable with three pierced molets or thereon.

James.²⁰ Further records of Yielding are not forthcoming, and it probably became absorbed into the other estates of the Eversfield family, who are still the owners of Grove in Hollington (q.v.).

The site of the *PRIORY* of Holy Trinity, Hastings,²¹ was leased in July 1537 to Sir George West, the reversion being granted in fee in the following March to John Baker, Attorney-General²² and subsequently Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Sir John died in 1558, having disinherited his eldest son, so that the property descended to Sir Richard, the younger.²³ He died in 1594²⁴ and his son John only two years later; consequently in 1596 the site passed to his son Henry who was under age.²⁵ Sir Henry, who was created a baronet in 1611, died in 1623 leaving a son and heir, Sir John, also a minor.²⁶



BAKER. Azure three swans' heads argent their beaks gules.

On the death of the latter's son, another Sir John, in 1661,²⁷ his estates passed to his four daughters²⁸ and the descent is obscure; one quarter, which came into the hands of — Elsworth by reason of a mortgage and was bequeathed by him for charitable purposes, was subsequently claimed by the Milwards and came into Chancery early in the 18th century.²⁹ In 1835 this quarter was held by the representative of Edward Milward, and the other three quarters by Earl Cornwallis,³⁰ presumably being inherited from his uncle Sir Horace Mann.³¹ About 1850 both the Crown and the Town Council laid claim to the property, but it is not clear what happened.

The lands of the *FREE CHAPEL OF ST. MARY* in the castle were granted at the Dissolution to Sir Anthony Browne, for an annual rent of £4 9s. 11½d.³² This so-called manor of Hastings descended in the same manner as Battle³³ (q.v.) and passed from the Viscounts Montagu to Sir Thomas Webster in 1721,³⁴ in whose family it descended.

*BULVERHYTHE*³⁵ is a parish or chapelry lying on the coast between Bexhill and St. Leonards. Until lately it was marshland, the Bull Inn and the ruins of the chapel of St. Mary being all that remained of the old town. It is mentioned as a port in 1500,³⁶ but by the end of the 17th century the greater part of the old town had been swallowed up.³⁷ As the name suggests,³⁸ there was a haven or harbour here on the eastern side of the promontory which was washed by the Combe

¹ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* i, 953; *ibid.* 1185.

² Dawson, *op. cit.* ii, 464.

³ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 28.

⁴ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 337.

⁵ Yalding, Yielding, Yelden (xvi cent.), Yealding (xvii cent.).

⁶ Lay Subs. R. 189/63.

⁷ Exch. Inq. p.m. 1085, no. 2; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiv, 81.

⁸ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 18.

⁹ *Ibid.*; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiv, 111.

¹⁰ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2) cviii, no. 105.

¹¹ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 519.

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2) ccxi, no. 192; *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xx, Fines, 509.

¹⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cciii, no. 133.

¹⁵ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xx, 510.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* xiv, Inq. no. 386.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* no. 387.

¹⁸ *Ibid.* xx, p. 510.

¹⁹ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 519; Burke, *Landed Gentry*.

²⁰ *Ibid.*; *Recov. R. Hil.* 45 Geo. III, no. 317; *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 179; Horsfield, *Hist. of Sussex*, i, 441.

²¹ For an account of the Priory see *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 75-7.

²² *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiii (1), 646 (34), 1520 (106).

²³ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*, Sir Ric. Baker; Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxiii, 99.

²⁴ *Dict. Nat. Biog.* loc. cit.

²⁵ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxvi, 114.

²⁶ *Ibid.* cccv, 155.

²⁷ G.E.C., *Complete Baronetage*, i, 72.

²⁸ Feet of F. Div. Co. Mich. 1 Jas. II; *ibid.* Mich. 3 Will. & Mary; and *Recov. R. Mich.* 3 Will. & Mary, r. 263.

²⁹ Mr. Brett's MSS. (Brassey Institute),

vol. ii.

³⁰ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 448.

³¹ The Manns had bought most of the Baker estates; G.E.C. loc. cit.

³² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiii, 152.

³³ *Recov. R. Hil.* 7 Chas. I, 15; Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 13 Chas. I; *Recov. R. Hil.* 27 Chas. II, r. 132.

³⁴ *Ibid.* Hil. 7 Geo. I, r. 152; Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 8 Geo. I.

³⁵ Bulewar, Buleworeheth (xii cent.); Boluwareheth (xiii cent.), Bulverheth, Bolverheth (xv, xvi cent.); Bulverhyde (xvii cent.).

³⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1494-1509, p. 214.

³⁷ Jeake, *Charters of the Cinque Ports*, 124.

³⁸ Bulverhythe means Harbour of the Burgesses: *English Place-Name Soc.* vi, p. xxii; vii, 535.

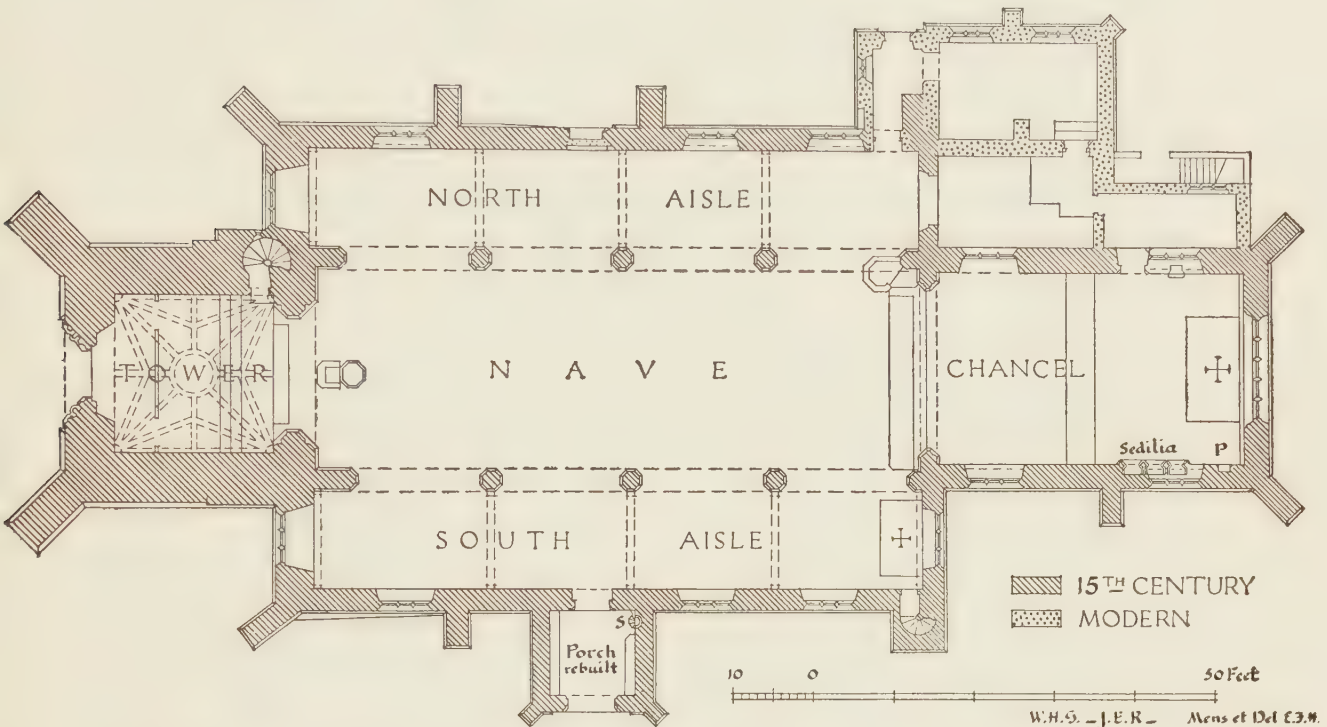
THE RAPE AND HONOUR OF HASTINGS BOROUGH OF HASTINGS

Haven; and forest growth, part of what is now known as the Submarine Forest, has been traced along the shore here.¹ The district is now being rapidly covered with houses.

There is no mention of Bulverhythe in the Domesday Survey, and it is rarely mentioned as a manor. In 1310

The chapel was used as a place of worship in 1372,¹⁰ but subsequently fell into ruin and was not rebuilt. Parts of the walls, including the splay of the east window, still stand. It comprised a chancel, 25 ft. by 17 ft. 9 in., a nave, 57 ft. 8 in. by 23 ft. 6 in., and a western tower, 12 ft. 6 in. square.¹¹ It is included in

PARISH CHURCH of ALL SAINTS — HASTINGS



John de Bretagne was granted a weekly market on Monday at his manor of Bulverhythe and a yearly fair there for 4 days at Lady Day,² so he probably held it in demesne, but in an inquisition taken on his lands in 1335 his property is returned as 20 acres of salt pasture, 53s. 10d. yearly assized rent, and a ferry across the water of Bulverhythe.³ A pasture called 'Le Doune' also belonged to the honour.⁴ Bulverhythe apparently followed the descent of the honour of Hastings, as land and rent there were granted in 1591 with the honour and rape by Henry Earl of Huntingdon to Thomas Pelham.⁵

The chapel of *ST. MARY, BULVERHITHE*, was a prebend of the free chapel of St. Mary in the Castle and as such was in the gift of the king.⁶ In 1274 the prebend was worth 2s. a year, but by 1280 its value had increased to 20s.⁷ It apparently remained with the free chapel, but does not seem to have been granted with the other possessions of the college to Sir Anthony Browne and his descendants. In 1566 Sir Richard Sackville died seised of it,⁸ and the prebend and tithes descended in his family in the same manner as the manor of Gensing, and passed with it to the Eversfield family.⁹

the list of parishes within the Borough in 1832 and 1851¹² but has no parish church.

The entire fabric of the present *CHURCHES* church of *ALL SAINTS* (excluding the modern vestries) may be assigned to the first half of the 15th century. It replaced an earlier church on the same site, of which a small portion of foundation exists to the west of the south porch and nearly in line with the present south aisle wall. From a few stones with chevron and cable moulding, built into the walls, it may be inferred that the earlier church dated from the Norman period.

As the church is referred to as the new church of All Saints in 1436¹³ it may be assumed that the present church was built during the time that Sir John Cornewaile held the advowson (1413-43).

The church consists of a large nave of four bays with north and south aisles, a chancel (to which a modern organ-chamber and vestries have been added) and a western tower. As the ground rises considerably towards the east the church is approached from the west by several steps and the nave is reached by steps from the tower, while the chancel is also at a higher level than the nave. The walls are built of local sandstone

¹ Dawson, op. cit. i, 1, 2-3.

² Cal. Chart. iii, 137.

³ Cal. Inq. p.m. vii, 427.

⁴ Cal. Inq. Misc. iii, 463.

⁵ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 33-4 Eliz.

⁶ Suss. Arch. Coll. xiii, 145; Rot. Chart. (Rec. Com.), 187.

⁷ Cal. Inq. Misc. i, 953, 1185.

⁸ Suss. Rec. Soc. xxxiii, 23.

⁹ Ibid. xx, 331, 495; Add. MSS. 5679, fol. 79. In the 18th century Sir Charles Eversfield paid 7s. 6d. castle-guard rent to the lord of the Rape for lands in Bulverhythe. Dawson: op. cit. ii, 355.

¹⁰ Ibid. 389.

¹¹ The site was excavated in 1861: Suss. Arch. Coll. xiv, 117.

¹² Bound. Rep. v, 51; Lower, Sussex, i, 222.

¹³ Will of Richard Mechyng; J. Brit. Arch. Assn. vi, 180.

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and ironstone with greensand quoins, replaced in many places by Bathstone; all the roofs are tiled.

The chancel is about 38 ft. long by 24 ft. wide internally and has at its eastern corners two angle buttresses of two stages. The east window is of five lights with perpendicular tracery, inserted in the middle of the 19th century. It is glazed with stained glass representing the Crucifixion, and the arms of the Earl of Waldegrave are in the centre tracery light.¹ Above the window the gabled roof terminates in a finial cross. On each of the north and south sides of the chancel there are two window openings separated by a buttress; the north-western of these has had the glass removed and now serves as part of the organ front; the others are glazed with stained glass. On the north side of the chancel there is a priest's door, with a four-centred archway, which opens outwards into the modern clergy vestry. Internally the east end of the chancel is panelled in Gothic fashion and in the south wall is a piscina and three sedilia with four-centred arches, all under a square hood-moulding. The walls of the chancel are covered with paintings by Mr. E. Reginald Frampton, representing 'Benedicite omnia opera'. The chancel is roofed in two bays separated by a principal springing from corbels.

The chancel is separated from the nave by a large arch of two orders, the outer plainly chamfered and the inner with a slightly concave chamfer. It has no caps or bases, and extends nearly the whole width of the chancel.

The nave is of four bays and is roofed by a 7-cant 'scissors' roof divided into compartments by principals. It is separated from the north and south aisles by arcades of four-centred arches springing from three octagonal piers and two semi-octagonal responds. The caps are shallow and the octagonal form of the pier is continued above the caps until it is met by the arch moulds, which die into it. The arches are of two orders, the outer having a double ogee moulding and the inner hollow chamfers.

The north aisle and the south aisle are nearly identical, each having three windows and a doorway placed opposite to one another. The windows are each of three lights of common 15th-century form, the mullions running through to the top of the window and the top lights subdivided. The north doorway is now walled up. The south doorway leads out of the south porch. On the north wall there are three buttresses (the eastern one being covered by the modern passage from the choir vestry). On the south side the eastern buttress also serves as a rood-loft staircase—the stairs remaining in the thickness of the wall and being lighted by a tiny window on the east side. There is only one other buttress on the south side, but at the west end of both aisles is an angle buttress. At the east end of each aisle is a three-light window opening; that in the north aisle having been lengthened at the base now forms a second front to the organ, that in the south aisle is glazed with stained glass, as are some of the other windows. At the west end of each aisle there is also a three-light window, these western walls being much thicker than the others and forming supports for the tower. The nave opens into the tower by a lofty arch the inner member of which springs from corbels, above which are fluted hexagonal engaged shafts. It

has a double ogee moulding. The building of the tower itself seems to have been left till after the nave arcade had been completed, as appears by the plain stepped buttress-like walling at the west end of the nave into which the tower is built. Externally it has a plinth running round and a pair of diagonal buttresses at the western angles, and a slightly projecting stair turret at the north-east corner. On the west face there is a lofty arch covering both the west door and the four-light window above. The doorway has blank shields in the spandrels and a stone battlement runs above and below the window; all this stone-work has been renewed. Above the large containing arch, a plain relieving arch can be seen in the face of the wall. On this and on the north and south faces there is a two-light window giving light to the ringing-chamber, with ogee arch crocketed and finialled with a lion passant, and above on each face there is a louvre in the belfry. On the north and south sides of the tower there is an offset about half-way up, below which is a flint consecration cross set flush with the face of the wall. The tower is embattled and the staircase turret is carried up above the battlement to give access to the roof. On the eastern face of the tower are two doors opening on to the lead gutters between the nave roof and those of the aisle, the parapet of which was raised in 1870.

Internally the ground floor of the tower contains a lobby and an entrance to the belfry in the north-east corner over which are four verses painted in 1752, beginning: 'This is a belfry that is free'. The ground story is vaulted in stone, the vaulting ribs springing from four corner corbels having grotesque heads. The vaulting ribs terminate in a ring forming the aperture for hoisting the bells, and on this ring are carved the signs of the zodiac, which are coloured. Above the vaulting is a ringing-chamber, over which is the bell-chamber.

The south porch was rebuilt in 1870 and has a pair of angle buttresses, and contains a pillar piscina of 15th-century date on the east side. Above the outer doorway is a niche which is apparently reproduced from the old porch.

The font is a panelled octagon with plain shields in the panels and an embattled edge, standing on an octagonal pedestal and base.

Above the chancel arch is a wall painting of the Doom. Our Lord is seated on a rainbow. On His right can be seen the buildings of the New Jerusalem, and on the right is the weighing of souls.² Formerly there were paintings on the north wall of the north aisle, where there was an altar of St. Nicholas.

Of the monuments the earliest is an incised grave slab of black Flemish marble at the east end of the north aisle with the figures of a man and woman in civilian dress, within an inscription border with the evangelistic emblems at the corners. The date of this is given as 1458,³ but the inscription is now almost wholly obliterated.⁴

Attached to the south wall of south aisle is a brass of Thomas Goodenough and Margaret his wife, c. 1520.⁵ This was formerly on the floor of the chancel. There are numerous 19th-century wall tablets and brasses and some funeral hatchments.

There are five old bells,⁶ the earliest being cast by Edmund Giles in 1602. Three bells were cast locally

¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxviii, 232.

² Described in *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxiii, 195-6.

³ Rawl. MSS. (Bodl. Lib.) C. 253.

⁴ Mosse, *Monumental Effigies*, 104.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 211, where the inscriptions are given.



HASTINGS: ALL SAINTS CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST



HASTINGS: ST. CLEMENT'S CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST

THE RAPE AND HONOUR OF HASTINGS BOROUGH OF HASTINGS

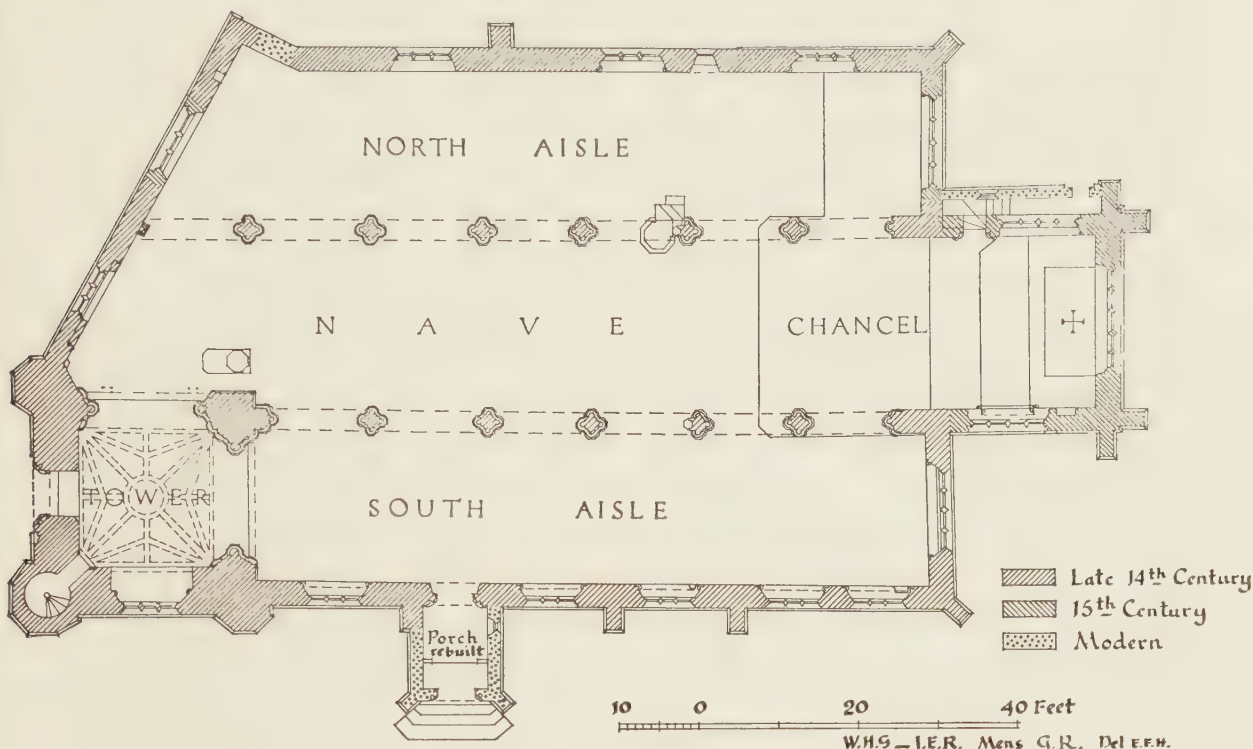
in 1614 by Roger Tapsell and Thomas Wakefield,¹ but by 1686 two of these were cracked² and in 1697 all three were recast by John Wood.³ The fifth bears the date 1714. Three more have recently been added, making a peal of eight.

The plate⁴ consists of a fine set of silver vessels,

weathered badly and has been renewed in several places. There are three parallel roofs covering the nave and chancel and the two aisles, while the tower has a pointed roof within a battlemented parapet.

The sanctuary at the east end projects about 22 ft. beyond the chancel aisles and from the character of its

PARISH CHURCH of ST. CLEMENT — HASTINGS.



including two communion cups, a paten, a flagon, and an alms plate, all made by Timothy Ley in 1714.

The registers begin in 1558.

The present church of *ST. CLEMENT* is built upon a site acquired by the abbey of Fécamp in 1286 from Alan the Cheesemonger and Alice his wife for the purpose of rebuilding the older church of St. Clement which had been overthrown and laid waste by the violence and inundations of the sea. To the church then built it is difficult to assign any parts of the present church except perhaps the western part of the north wall of the north aisle, as its rough walling is very different in character to the rest of the building; it is possible that the core of some of the walls may also belong to that church.

In 1377 the French landed at Hastings and burnt the town, including the church of St. Clement. From architectural evidence the present church appears to have been built soon after this event, in the period during which William de Lyndon was rector (1388–1413). It consists of a nave of five bays followed by a chancel of two bays with a projecting sanctuary at the east end and flanking north and south aisles extending on each side of the nave and chancel, the western bay of the south aisle being occupied by a western tower. There is a south porch and a vestry or sacristy under the sanctuary. The western end of the nave and north aisle is cut off diagonally by the road on which it abuts. The church is built mainly of local sandstone and ironstone, the former of which has

windows appears to be the last part of the church to be completed. It has an external plinth running round, which is continued along the north and south chancel aisles, and this seems to mark the lower part as contemporary with the main fabric of the church. It has a pair of buttresses at each of the eastern corners and a large east window of five lights under a four-centred arch. This has casement moulding, both externally and internally, which is carried round the arch. This window was blocked up till the middle of the 19th century and the tracery is therefore modern. Under this window inside the church is a modern embattled stone reredos. In each of the north and south walls of the sanctuary is a four-light window with somewhat similar casement mouldings and modern tracery. Under the southern of these windows is a double sedile under two segmental arches supported by a corbel carved with an angel holding a book, and east of this is a piscina, all of which have been renewed at the 19th-century restoration. In the north wall west of the window is a priest's door with a four-centred head under a square label, which opens outwards to a covered flight of steps leading to the vestry below the eastern part of the sanctuary. At the bottom of these steps are two doors, one leading into the churchyard and the other into the vestry. This has a groined roof and is lighted by a small two-light window in the eastern wall. The whole of this sanctuary above the floor level may be as late as the early part of the 16th century.

There is no structural division between the nave

¹ Ibid. 160.

² Ibid. 166.

³ Ibid. 184.

⁴ Ibid. lv, 188.

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and its aisles and the chancel and its aisles. Anciently a screen stretched across the church in line with the second pair of pillars from the east end, but the seating of the nave is now continued eastward of this point and the space used as the present chancel consists of the easternmost bay and a portion of the second bay. The two bays on each side of the chancel are formed by arches of two orders supported on pillars practically identical with those of the nave arcade, but the arches are slightly lower and less pointed than those in the nave and on the south side there is a small northward inclination. The piers are clustered, having four three-quarter engaged circular columns each with a base of the bell type, below which is an octagonal ground base. The caps are octagonal and of late-14th-century form.

The chapel on the south side of the chancel, now a Lady chapel, has a diagonal buttress at its south-east corner and is lighted by three windows—one of four lights at the east end with perpendicular tracery. The pair of windows in the south wall are each of three lights and also have similar modern tracery. All three windows have slight engaged semicircular shafts at the inside face of the wall supporting rear arches. There is a piscina near the east end of the south wall under a cusped ogee arch having blind tracery in the spandrels.

The chapel on the north side of the chancel is now occupied by the organ. It has a diagonal buttress at the north-east corner and is lighted by three windows. One in the east wall of four lights is very similar to that at the east end of the south chapel except that the rear arch is continued down to the sill without cap or base. There is a window of three lights in the north wall and a low-side window of one light to the west of it with a trefoil cusped head under a horizontal label. This is situated just east of the site of the former screen. There are indications in the former line of gable and corbel that the wall of the north chapel has been raised at some time. The roofs of these side chapels are a continuation of those in the nave aisles.

The nave is of five bays, the four easternmost of which are similar and are formed by arches of two orders, each with hollow chamfers with a three-quarter hollow between. They are supported on clustered columns standing on bell bases. The width between the piers differs slightly in each arcade so that the piers on the south side are not exactly opposite to those on the north. All the bases on the south side are at a lower level than those on the north, and this, coupled with the fact that the piscinae in the south wall are lower than usual, indicates that the floor level of the south aisle was lower than the north. At the west end the last bay of the south arcade opens into the tower by a much taller arch, and on the north side the last bay terminates in a corbel on the west wall. The two easternmost piers of this nave arcade each have an image-niche under tabernacle work on their western face. Above that on the north side is an embattlement, which is absent on the southern one.

The south aisle of the nave is supported by two buttresses, one of which is now incorporated in the porch, and is lighted by three windows each of three lights and all similar to those in the chapel to the east. All the tracery is modern. Between the two westernmost windows is a south porch with diagonal buttresses, all of which is a 19th-century rebuilding.

The north aisle of the nave has a single buttress added to the existing wall, which has no plinth and appears to be older than any other part of the church.

It has two three-light windows, the eastern one with a pointed head very similar to those in the south aisle and the western one with a square head. At the west end of this aisle the wall bends northwards at right angles to the west wall. At this point was formerly the north door, which was blocked up in 1875, but its attendant stoup can be seen on the west wall. There is a three-light window in the west wall of this aisle, the sill of which is carried down to form a seat. This west end of the aisle is screened off as a vestry.

The massive tower is placed at the west end of the south aisle. It is of two stages externally, there being a stair turret at the south-west corner, contained in an octagonal buttress three-eighths engaged, and the other corners being buttressed with large semi-octagonal projections. It is lighted by large windows, the one in its south wall having three lights and a transom and that in the west wall having four lights and a transom. There are sound louvres on all four faces in the second stage. On one side of the louvre on the south is a cannon-ball said to have hit the church during a bombardment by the French in the 18th century, and on the other side of the same louvre is a stone ball in imitation to match. The tower and likewise the south aisle are battlemented. There is a western door with pointed head under a square label in the spandrels of which are two modern shields of arms, that on the south being the arms of Hastings and that on the north the arms of Foyster. On the right-hand side of the door is an external holy-water stoup, much mutilated. Internally the tower has a vaulted roof below the bell-chamber with a central bell-hole and intermediate ribs. On the east and north sides it opens to the south aisle and nave respectively by two large arches of unequal height, that opening to the aisle being higher than the other. They are both of three orders having hollow chamfers and rest on caps and responds of two orders with engaged piers and bases somewhat similar to those in the nave. At the level of the caps the corners are ornamented with leaf-carving and animal grotesques. Above these caps are corbels carrying the vaulting ribs of the groined roof, above which is the bell-chamber, reached by a newel staircase in the south-west turret.

The font is placed near the west end of the nave and is of the early 15th century, standing on an octagonal pedestal with little stepped stone buttresses. The bowl is octagonal and on its cardinal faces has shields on which are carved the instruments of the Passion: west, cross with crown of thorns; north, whipping-post between two scourges; east, ladder; south, sponge and spear, while the intermediate faces have smaller shields set in trefoiled corners, south-east, pincers; south-west, cock facing sinister; north-west, blank; north-east, hammer.

There are brasses: to Thomas Wekes and Margery his wife and daughter Elizabeth, 1563, with their effigies, of which the man's alone remains; John Barley (1601), Thomas his son, and Alice his daughter, with their effigies, of which those of John and Alice alone remain; Thomas Pierce (1606); also monuments to Thomas and Nicholas Delves (1669), Thomas Faulkner, 1674, John Collier, 1760, and many other 18th- and 19th-century tablets and monuments.

The church possesses in the nave a pair of brass chandeliers, one of which was presented by the barons of Hastings who supported the canopy at the Coronation of George III (1761), and the other was the gift of the inhabitants.

There are also in the south chapel panel paintings of

THE RAPE AND HONOUR OF HASTINGS BOROUGH OF HASTINGS

Moses and Aaron by Roger Mortimer (uncle of John Hamilton Mortimer the Eastbourne painter), executed in 1721.¹

There is a peal of eight cast-steel bells by Naylor Vickers & Co.² which in 1863 replaced six bells, all of different dates, ranging from 1607 to 1718.³

The plate⁴ consists of a chalice and paten of silver gilt, dated 1894, with a dedicatory inscription; a silver chalice and paten of 1901; a silver flagon by Timothy Ley, 1714, identical in design with that at All Saints; and two cups and two patens on feet, of Sheffield plate.

The registers begin in 1558.

The church of *ALL SOULS*, Clive Vale, built and endowed in memory of Thomas Mason by his widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Mason, 1889-91, is of red brick. It consists of a chancel, with organ-chamber and vestries on the north, and Lady chapel on the south; a clerestoried nave of five bays opening into north and south aisles by arches springing from round brick piers on stone bases. At the west end is an apsidal baptistry, flanked by lean-to porches opening into the aisles, and there is a porch at the east end of the south aisle, giving access to the Lady chapel.

Of the original church of *ST. ANDREW* a fragment of wall and some worked stones, including a gable-cross, are built into houses in a court on the west of Castle Hill Place. The present church was founded in 1869 and enlarged in 1873. It is built of sandstone rubble in the 'gothic' style of that period and consists of apsidal chancel, a nave of four bays with north and south aisles, south porch, and a three-storied tower at the east end of the south aisle terminating in a short spire.

The building of *CHRIST CHURCH*, Blacklands, was begun by Mr. Charles Hay Frewen in 1878, but it was not until 1881 that the church was consecrated and a parish assigned to it. The tower, disproportionately large, was added in 1889, and the chancel was remodelled and lavishly decorated with paintings, mosaics, and alabaster in 1899. It is built of sandstone ashlar with Bathstone dressings and consists of chancel with organ-chamber and vestry on the north, a nave of five bays opening into wide aisles by pointed arches springing from round pillars, porches at the west end of the aisles, and a western tower containing eight bells. The lower part of the tower contains a gallery, carried on three arches, below which stands the font, in the form of an angel holding a shell, copied from one by Thorwaldsen at Copenhagen.

CHRIST CHURCH, Ore, designed in 1858-9 by Mr. A. D. Gough, is built of sandstone rubble in the 14th-century style. It consists of chancel, and nave of four bays with wide north aisle, of which the easternmost bay forms a transeptal chapel, now curtained off as a vestry. There is a south door with porch, and another porch at the west end; and at the south-west angle is an octagonal bell-turret with pointed spire.

ST. CLEMENT'S, Halton, consists of an aisleless nave, built of sandstone ashlar in 1838, divided by buttresses into five bays, with north and south doors in the westernmost bays; there is a west gallery and over the western gable an open bellcote with one bell. The chancel, with organ-chamber on the north and vestry on the south, was added in 1888. The whole is in the Early English style, from designs by Mr. Thomas Catley.

EMMANUEL CHURCH, West Hill, was built in 1873. Externally it is of bluestone rubble, internally of red brick with Bathstone dressings and circular pillars to the aisle arcades. It consists of chancel, clerestoried nave of four bays, north and south aisles, with a door on the north and opposite it, on the south, a semi-octagonal baptistry. At the east end of the south aisle is a square tower of three stories with battlements and angle pinnacles, the lowest story forming a porch. The style is of the 13th century.

The church of *ST. MARY-IN-THE-CASTLE* was built in 1828 by the Earl of Chichester, part of the cliff to the south of the castle being cut away to form the site for it and for Pelham Crescent. It was built from the designs of Joseph Kay in the classical style with an entrance portico of lofty columns and a pepper-pot turret. The entrance porches are on either side of the sanctuary and the body of the church is semicircular, with a gallery in the centre bay of which is the organ. Ten columns support the domical roof, from which and from eight windows behind the gallery the church is lighted. There are burial vaults below the church.

The church of *THE HOLY TRINITY* was built from the designs of Mr. S. S. Teulon, the nave being consecrated in 1858 and the chancel in 1862. It is a stone building in a rather florid rendering of the Decorated style, and owing to the site being controlled by the sharp angle of junction of Robertson Street and Trinity Street the plan is unusual. It consists of a nave of six bays with a south aisle, an apsidal chancel, to the north-east of which is a vestry, added in 1892; south of the chancel the base of a projected tower forms a porch.

THE FISHERMEN'S CHURCH,⁵ at Rock a Nore, is a chapel of ease to All Saints. It was built, of sandstone, in 1854. There is no structural division between nave and chancel; the entrance is on the north side at the west end; the windows are lancets, and there is a gallery across the west end.

The parish church of *ST. LEONARD*, on the Marina, was erected in 1831-3. It is built on a north and south axis; at the south end is a square battlemented tower containing seven bells; the ground floor of this forms an open porch, giving access to the circular stair turret, and the second stage opens into the church. On either side of the porch doors lead into the aisleless nave, which has on each side five pointed windows. The nave is spanned by a four-centred arch, beyond which the walls are brought in at an angle of 45 degrees to the chancel arch, which is pointed and springs from corbels. At the north (ritual east) end of the chancel is a circular traceried window.

The church of *ST. ETHELBURGA*,⁶ Filsham Road, was erected in 1929, replacing St. Saviour's mission church. It is built of brown bricks and consists of chancel, with vestries and organ-chamber on the north and opening by three stone arches into a chapel on the south; nave of four bays, divided from the aisles by octagonal piers and pointed arches of stone and opening by a brick arch into the western tower, in which is a gallery. There are lateral porches at the west end.

CHRIST CHURCH, London Road, is a large building of sandstone ashlar erected in 1873-5 from designs by Sir Arthur Blomfield in the Early English

¹ Moss, op. cit. 113.

² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 231.

³ *Ibid.* 211, where the inscriptions are given.

⁴ *Ibid.* lv, 189.

⁵ The invocation is believed to be St. Nicholas.

⁶ The invocation was chosen by the

Rev. James George Watson, who built the church, in memory of his wife Ethel Fanny Watson.

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style; the tower and spire were added in 1894, and the west end has been extended westwards to form a gallery containing the organ. The former organ-chamber on the south of the chancel has been converted into a chapel. The chancel includes one bay of an arcade of which the other five bays, above which are two-light clerestory windows, form the nave; the north aisle, which ends in an apse, has a door and porch near its east end, and both aisles have doors at the west end. Owing to the slope of the ground the south aisle stands on a basement containing vestries.

The church of *ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST*, Upper Maze Hill, is a brick building in the style of the 14th century, erected in 1881.¹ It has a chancel with organ-chamber on the south and an apsidal chapel on the north; a clerestoried nave of five and a half bays, opening by pointed brick arches springing from octagonal Bathstone pillars into aisles with lean-to roofs; the roof of the nave is of queen-post construction. The south-western tower, with spire, contains four bells. The architect was Sir Arthur Blomfield.

The church of *ST. MARY MAGDALEN*, Warrior Square, was built in 1852 and enlarged in 1872. It is of sandstone ashlar in the style of the 14th century and consists of chancel, with hammer-beam roof, a clerestoried nave of five bays, and aisles, the west bay of the south aisle being occupied by the tower, of which the ground floor forms the porch and the first floor forms a gallery open to the aisle and nave.

ST. MATTHEW'S, Silverhill,² designed in 1885 by Mr. J. L. Pearson in a modern rendering of the gothic tradition, is a fine building of red brick with Bathstone dressings. It consists of a chancel of two bays and an apse, with a chapel on the south and an organ-chamber on the north; north and south transepts; a nave of four bays with blind cinquefoil clerestory windows and a king-post roof; aisles, vaulted in cement; a north porch, and on the south an unfinished tower forming a porch. Vestries, below floor level, were added on the north in 1935. Effective use is made internally of a diaper of red and yellow brick, and the pews and the panelling of the chancel are of oak.

ST. PAUL'S, Church Road, was built in 1868. Externally it is of bluestone, but internally of red brick with Bathstone dressings, the pillars of the aisle arcades and chancel arch being of marble. The chancel terminates in an apse; the clerestoried nave is of four bays, and at the west end a baptistry is built out, with vestries on its south side. The tower is at the east end of the north aisle. The architect was Mr. John Newton.

ST. PETER'S, Bohemia, is a red-brick building erected in 1885. It consists of a chancel of two bays, with a chapel on the south and vestries, above which is the organ-chamber, on the north; a nave of five bays with tall two-light clerestory windows; aisles, the western bay on the south containing the door to the porch, and the corresponding bay on the north having an apsidal baptistry. It was designed by Mr. James Brooks.

The church of *ALL SAINTS*, which was rated at £5 6s. 8d. in 1291,³ is first mentioned in 1284, when it belonged to the abbey of *ADVOWSONS* Fécamp.⁴ Presentation, however, was frequently made by the Crown during the French wars, owing to the property of the alien abbeys being in the king's hands.⁵ The advowson passed with the manor of Brede (q.v.) and in 1461 was confirmed to the Abbess and Convent of Syon,⁶ and remained with them until the dissolution of the abbey. The benefice was valued in 1535 at £19 12s. 9d.,⁷ and was granted in 1541 to Sir Anthony Browne.⁸ The rectory and advowson descended in the family of Browne, Viscounts Montagu, and in 1721 were conveyed by them, with other property, to Sir Thomas Webster.⁹ Nevertheless, during the 17th century presentation was frequently made by the king or the Bishop of Chichester, doubtless because the viscounts adhered to the Roman Church. The Crown presented in 1722,¹⁰ after which the advowson remained with the Websters until about 1830, when it was acquired by the Rev. John Goodge Foyster,¹¹ who left it in 1855 to his brother the Rev. H. S. Foyster, on whose death in 1862 it passed to the Rev. G. A. Foyster,¹² who was patron in 1905. By 1907, however, it had come into the hands of the Bishop of Chichester,¹³ with whom it remains.

The Fisherman's Church in Rock a Nore Road is a chaplaincy in the appointment of the rector of All Saints.

The church of *ST. CLEMENT* in 1291 was rated at £5,¹⁴ but the value had risen in 1535 to £23 6s. 9d.¹⁵ The rectory and advowson followed the same descent as that of All Saints, but during its tenure by the Viscounts Montagu presentations were made by John Foyle in 1629, John Dunke in 1664, and Richard Styles in 1682.¹⁶ It is now in the hands of the Bishop of Chichester.

The church of *ST. ANDREW*, called in the 13th century *St. Andrew sub castro*,¹⁷ was granted by Ranulph vicar of Udimore to the canons of the royal chapel of St. Mary, Hastings, at an early date, and was attached to the prebend of Roger Danyell.¹⁸ It was confirmed to their use for the provision of food and clothing in the reign of Henry II.¹⁹ In 1207 King John presented, presumably in virtue of his patronage of the college.²⁰ The church is valued in the *Taxatio* of Pope Nicholas at £4 13s. 4d., and the parish is mentioned in 1321;²¹ by 1440, however, it had been depopulated and the church was apparently disused.²² The parish seems then to have become the parish of St. Mary in the Castle, which is not mentioned before the 16th century.

In 1832 it was a desolate parish in which were the gas-works and three inhabited houses,²³ but in 1869 a new church was built and the parish was reconstituted in 1870. Miss Maria Sayer on her death in 1887 bequeathed the patronage to her nephew Mr. A. L. Sayer,²⁴ and the present patron is Mrs. Sayer.

¹ It replaces a church built in 1867 and burnt in 1878.

² This replaces a church built in 1860, which is now used as a parish room.

³ *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 136.

⁴ *Cal. Pat.* 1281-90, p. 146.

⁵ *Ibid.* 1338-40, p. 128; 1340-3, p. 15; 1343-5, p. 347; 1348-50, p. 218.

⁶ *Ibid.* 1461-7, p. 145. Yet in 1462 the advowsons of All Saints and St. Clement's were confirmed, with the Rape,

to Sir William Hastings (see p. 3).

⁷ *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), i, 345.

⁸ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xvi, g. 947 (43).

⁹ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 28.

¹⁰ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

¹¹ Horsfield, *Hist. of Suss.* i, 452.

¹² *Add. MS.* 39469, fol. 135.

¹³ *Chic. Dioc. Cal.*

¹⁴ *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 136.

¹⁵ *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), i, 345.

¹⁶ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

¹⁷ *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 136.

¹⁸ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiii, 138.

¹⁹ *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 113a.

²⁰ *Rot. Lit. Pat.* (Rec. Com.), 61b.

²¹ Feet of F. Div. Co. 14-15 Edw. II, no. 12. In 1372 it was included in a return of Hastings churches, now in the Hastings museum: *ex inf.* Mr. J. E. Ray.

²² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiv, 70.

²³ *Boundary Rep.* v, 51.

²⁴ *Add. MS.* 39469, fol. 136.

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The three ancient churches of *ST. MICHAEL*, *ST. PETER*, and *ST. MARGARET*, although grouped together in the *Taxatio* of 1291, and all belonging later to the priory of the Holy Trinity, Hastings, appear to have been originally quite separate.

About 1200 the right of part-presentation to the church of St. Michael was given to the canons of Holy Trinity by Robert de Cotelege, son of John de Oxenel.¹ Who owned the other portions and how they came into the possession of the priory does not appear, but the whole church was confirmed to them in 1237 by Bishop Ralph Neville.² In 1205 presentation to the church of St. Margaret was made by King John.³ In 1240 the prior and canons of Combwell in Kent demised 'all the right they had in the church of St. Peter' to Hastings Priory.⁴ The three churches were valued together in 1291 at £10,⁵ but later suffered much from the depredations of pirates, who burnt many buildings, and in the following century their value is said by the prior to have been reduced to 20s.⁶ On this account the priory was released from contribution as regards these churches to the tenth granted to the Crown in 1339, as they had not sufficient means to maintain a priest in any of the three parishes.⁷ Those of St. Michael and St. Margaret are returned as depopulated in Bishop Praty's Register of 1440,⁸ and St. Peter's parish is not again mentioned. The last ruins of St. Michael's Church were removed in 1834, when a coastguard station was erected on the site on Cuckoo Hill.⁹ The district is termed an 'extra-parochial part' in 1832,¹⁰ but is mentioned in a list of parishes in 1851.¹¹ In 1882 it was incorporated in the new parish of Holy Trinity.

The ruins of St. Margaret's Church are recorded early in the 19th century to have been at the rear of 50 Eversfield Place, on the cliff edge between the Priory and Gensing Valleys.¹² The parish seems to have been identical with that known later as St. Mary Magdalen (q.v.).

The church of *ST. LEONARD* in 1291 was valued at £4 13s. 4d., and in 1334 belonged to the abbey of St. Katherine of Rouen.¹³ It was later attached to Harmondsworth Priory, a cell of Rouen, in Middlesex, and in 1373 and 1374 the presentation was in the king's gift by reason of the temporalities of the Priory of Harmondsworth being in his hands.¹⁴ In 1391 the Abbot of Holy Trinity on Mount St. Katherine, Rouen, received licence to grant it to St. Mary's College of Winchester (i.e. New College) in Oxford.¹⁵ It is mentioned among the depopulated parishes in the Register of 1440, but evidently the church survived, as presentation to it was made by New College at intervals between 1400 and 1502.¹⁶ After this date this church became the free chapel of St. Leonard's, Hollington (q.v.).¹⁷ At the beginning of the 19th

century it was still a 'desolate little parish', until the founding of the new town in 1828. The modern parish was created in 1868 from part of the old parish and part of St. Mary Magdalen and is a rectory in the gift of Hyndman's Trustees.

The church of *ST. MARY IN THE CASTLE*, which up to the time of the Dissolution belonged to the deanery and college of that name, had by then taken the place of the destroyed church of St. Andrew as a parish church, and the advowson of the vicarage was granted, with the lands of the college, to Sir Anthony Browne by Henry VIII.¹⁸

The advowson and right of presentation to the rectory were, however, granted to the corporation by the charter of Elizabeth in 1588.¹⁹ The church fell into ruin and was soon disused, but the parish remained. In 1832 only the southern and north-eastern parts of it were included in the borough boundaries.²⁰

In 1828 the Earl of Chichester built a new church.²¹ The presentation to this vicarage remained until about 1875 with the Earls of Chichester,²² but since the beginning of the present century has been in the gift of Hyndman's Trustees.²³

ST. MARY MAGDALEN is first mentioned as a parish in 1656,²⁴ but there is no reason to suppose that there was a church of that invocation before the 19th century. This name for the parish seems to have become substituted for that of St. Margaret (the church of which was destroyed) owing to the location of the ancient Hospital of St. Mary Magdalen within its borders. In 1824 it had 13 houses and in 1832 the district was entirely agricultural.²⁵ In 1870 it was reconstituted as a parish in St. Leonards. The rectory is in the gift of the Bishop of Chichester.

There was traditionally a church or chapel of *ST. GEORGE* of which the burial ground is said to have been situated in the middle of East Hill, which was once called St. George's Hill,²⁶ but nothing is known of it, and its existence is more than doubtful.

The parish of *HOLY TRINITY* took its name from the priory, which, however, was removed to Warbleton early in the 15th century owing to the wasting of its lands by the sea. Its church fell into ruin, but is said to have been used for burials as late as 1533.²⁷ The lands continued to be called the parish of Holy Trinity, and in 1832 consisted chiefly of low-lying meadow lands with a number of humble dwellings and workshops near the sea.²⁸ In 1882 a new parish was constituted including the ancient demesne of the priory and the old parish of St. Michael.²⁹ The living is a vicarage in the gift of the Bishop of Chichester.

With the growth of Hastings in the early 19th century many new parishes have been formed from the old ones to meet the needs of the increasing population. In 1838, St. Clement's, Halton, was separated from St. Clement's, Hastings, and is a

¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiii, 168. The witness William de Gensing was living between 1189 and 1219.

² *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 76.

³ *Rot. Chart.* (Rec. Com.), 141 b.

⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiii, 174.

⁵ *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 136.

⁶ *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 76.

⁷ *Cal. Close*, 1339-41, p. 333.

⁸ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiv, 70.

⁹ Cole, op. cit. 143.

¹⁰ *Boundary Rep.* v, 51.

¹¹ Lower, *Sussex*, i, 222.

¹² Cole, op. cit. 142.

¹³ *Cal. Pat.* 1330-4, p. 534.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* 1370-4, p. 335; 1374-7, p. 35.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* 1388-92, pp. 407, 418.

¹⁶ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiv, 70.

¹⁷ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxvi, 73.

¹⁸ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiii, 152.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* xiv, 100. It is here referred to as 'the Castle parish and St. Andrew, or by the name of one of them', the church of St. Andrew, however, was apparently destroyed at a much earlier date.

²⁰ *Boundary Rep.* v, 51.

²¹ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 455.

²² Lower, *Sussex*, i, 222; Cole, op. cit. 108.

²³ *Chic. Dioc. Col.*

²⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiv, 69.

²⁵ Moss, op. cit. 173; *Boundary Rep.* v, 51. Horsfield, *Sussex*, 457, refers to it as the parish of St. Mary Magdalen or St. Margaret.

²⁶ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiv, 108; Cole, op. cit. 79, 143.

²⁷ Salzman, *Hastings*, 36.

²⁸ *Boundary Rep.* v, 51.

²⁹ Cole, op. cit. 110. The ruins of the priory were on the site of Priory Street.

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vicarage in the gift of the Bishop of Chichester. In 1870 *ST. MATTHEW*, Silverhill, a rectory in the gift of Simeon's Trustees, was formed from part of the old parish of St. Leonard; and *ST. PAUL*, a rectory in the gift of the Bishop of Chichester, was taken from that of St. Mary Magdalen. In the same year the parish of *ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST*, Hollington, was formed, the vicarage being in the gift of the Church Patronage Society. Five years later the parish of *EMMANUEL* was carved out of St. Mary in the Castle, the Martyrs' Memorial Trust Society presenting to the vicarage.

In 1881 *CHRIST CHURCH*, Blacklands, was formed from part of the same parish and part of Ore, a vicarage in the gift of the Church Patronage Society; and *ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST*, Upper St. Leonards, took yet another portion from St. Leonards parish and is a rectory in the gift of trustees. *CHRIST CHURCH*, St. Leonards, was formed from St. Mary Magdalen in 1885, and is also a rectory in the gift of trustees. *ALL SOULS*, Clive Vale, was divided from All Saints in 1889, and the church built in the following year, the patronage of the vicarage resting with the rector of St. John's, Upper St. Leonards. In 1890 the parish of *ST. PETER*, Bohemia, was created from still another part of St. Mary Magdalen and was enlarged by a portion of St. Paul's in 1910. It is a vicarage in the gift of the Bishop of Chichester. Lastly *ST. ETHELBURGA* was formed out of St. Leonards in 1929 and is a vicarage in the gift of Hyndman's Trustees.

The Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary Star of the Sea was built in the old town of Hastings in 1882, and there is also one, of St. Thomas of Canterbury, in Magdalen Road, St. Leonards.

There were formerly two chantries.

SALERNE'S CHANTRY was founded in the church of St. Clement in 1443, by Richard Wakehurst and others. The chaplain was to celebrate at the altar of the Holy Trinity and the annual value was not to exceed £10. In 1547, however, the rents were returned at £11 9s. 10d. The last chaplain, Thomas Scott, then received a pension of £6.¹

GAUTHORNE'S CHANTRY was valued in 1547 at £9 14s., but there is no record of its foundation. The last chaplain, Thomas Lucke or Luke, also received a pension of £6.² The lands of both chantries were granted to the corporation by Queen Elizabeth by her charter of 1588.

At the time of the dissolution of the chantries there was a stipendiary at the Jesus Altar of St. Clement's Church, valued at £9 3s. 5d., but there was then no holder. Another, in the church of All Saints, valued at £12 0s. 9d., had been held by John Whight.³ There were four Obits, valued together at 15s., Manning's, Knight's, Sharp's, and the Church House.⁴

Richard Ellsworth, by his will dated *CHARITIES* 11 July 1714, gave all his part of the dissolved Priory of Hastings for ever towards teaching the poorest children of the parish to read and say their catechism, and buying them spelling books, bibles, and the *Whole Duty of Man*; paying first a tenth part of his share to the minister of the parish, whom he appointed to take care that that part of his will should be duly executed. The charity now appears to be lost.

¹ *Sussex Chantry Records* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xxxvi), pp. xxii, 32, 55.

² *Ibid.* 33, 55.

³ *Ibid.* 34, 55.

Milward's Charity. The commissioners in their report of 1837 state that in Gilbert's Returns of 1786 there is the following entry: 'J. Spencer Milward died without a will in 1760 but recommended to his brother Edward the following gifts viz: a woman's charity school, but no fixed salary mentioned, for which Edward Milward continued to pay £10 a year to a school mistress; also £100 to the poor; which he paid, and was distributed immediately.' Edward Milward continued this payment until his death in 1811, and his son did the same for some time, as a perfectly gratuitous gift. It has ceased for many years.

Hastings Lying-In Society, founded in the year 1814, is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 19 June 1928, which directs that the charity shall be administered by a committee consisting of 4 *ex officio* trustees and 10 nominated members. The scheme provides that the object of the charity shall be the relief of poor lying-in married women in the area of benefit. The endowment produces about £36 annually.

Ladies Lodge was founded by an indenture dated 16 December 1862 which recited that Robert Benjamin Kaye was desirous of founding a charitable establishment for benefit of poor Protestant maiden ladies of age of 50 and upwards who had been reduced in circumstances, and vested in trustees a piece of land in the parish of St. Mary in the Castle, for the erection of three tenements for the residence of three such ladies, and a dwelling-house, the net rent of which was to be applied for their benefit. The property, 21 Wellington Square, Hastings, is occupied by the beneficiaries, and the endowment consists of 20 Wellington Square, let at a yearly rental of £60, and Stocks producing annually in all about £25 in dividends. The income is applied as to £30 in grants of £10 each to three recipients and the balance towards the general purposes of the charity. The sums of stock arose from the investment of accumulated income and cash believed to have been given by the founder.

Royal East Sussex Hospital. By indenture dated 25 July 1844 Charles Gilbert Eversfield and others sold to trustees a piece of land situate in the parish of St. Mary Magdalen with the building called the East Sussex, Hastings, and St. Leonards Infirmary. By an indenture dated 30 December 1884 this property was conveyed to trustees and thereafter called the Hastings and St. Leonards and East Sussex Hospital.

By indenture dated 10 May 1870, after reciting that trustees were possessed of certain enumerated Stocks given by Robert Benjamin Kaye for establishing the Hastings Convalescent Asylum, it was agreed that nos. 7 and 8 Wellington Square, Hastings, should be bought for £1,350 to be used for the reception of convalescent women who were of the class entitled to receive medical treatment in the infirmary. By indenture dated 15 February 1873 the funds and property were transferred to the trustees of the infirmary. Under an order of the Charity Commissioners of 22 March 1907 the houses were sold for £900 and the proceeds applied for the general purposes of the hospital.

The present building was erected in memory of King Edward VII, and of the men of Hastings, St. Leonards, and East Sussex who fell in the Great War, 1914-18. It was opened in May 1923 and licence

⁴ *Ibid.* 35.

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was then granted by His Majesty the King to assume the title of Royal East Sussex Hospital. The management of the hospital is in the hands of the General Committee, and the income is derived from the most part from voluntary subscriptions and donations.

The hospital has benefited from time to time by bequests, and about thirty beds and cots have been endowed.

Christopherson Gold Medal. Dr. Cecil Christopherson by his will proved in London on 11 July 1925 gave £100, the annual income to be applied in providing a gold medal for probationers of the hospital who shall pass at the head of the list at the annual qualifying examination for nurses.

Surgical Instruments Fund. The same donor gave £250 to provide this fund.

The following funds are regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 23 October 1914:

Discharged Female Patients' Fund founded by R. B. Kaye in or about 1872.

Male Samaritan Fund, founded in 1913 by W. H. Mullens in memory of Maria Mullens, and Mrs. Bagshawe. The scheme provides that the funds of both are for deserving and necessitous patients.

The total annual income of the hospital from all sources amounts to approximately £28,000.

The Central Cricket and Recreation Ground was founded by deed dated 7 August 1872, whereby the trustees under the Cornwallis Estate Act 1872 sold for £5,000 to Thomas Ross and others a piece of land in the parish of Holy Trinity, part of Priory Farm, containing 6 a. 1 r. 3 p. upon trust to be used for a pleasure ground. The management and control of the ground is in the hands of a committee of 16, 12 being elected annually by the annual subscribers to the ground, and 4 by the Hastings Town Council.

The Albert House Institution, founded by indentures dated 24 April 1867 and 15 June 1867, is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners of 13 March 1928 which appoints the rector of St. Mary Magdalen *ex officio* and 9 co-optative persons as trustees of the charity to be administered under the title of the Montgomerie Trust. The scheme provides that the yearly income shall be applied in aiding sick, infirm, indigent, or destitute persons, residing within the area of the Parliamentary Borough of Hastings as constituted in 1867, and the assistance of poor girls, who are members of the Church of England, residing in the borough, and who are under the age of 21 years, to enable them to earn their own living. By an order of the Charity Commissioners of 22 November 1927 Albert House was sold and the proceeds invested. The endowments are held by the Official Trustees and produce annually about £77 in dividends.

Miss Marianne Francis Hasker by her will proved in London on 4 September 1903 gave £500 to the Albert House Institution; and Cecilia Harriet Pearson by her will proved in London on 7 March 1929 gave £50.

The Fishermen's Institute, founded by a declaration of trust dated 26 October 1882 made between Henry Chapman and trustees, reciting that the trustees were possessed of money which fluctuated according to amount of subscriptions received and of £800 placed in their hands by Sophia Mendham as foundress of the institute, Henry Chapman for £1,100 conveyed to trustees a site in All Saints Street, Hastings, known as 'Hughenden Hall' to be used as a club-house, reading,

and recreation rooms by persons engaged in the fishing trade. The trustees are appointed under the provisions of the above-mentioned Trust. The endowments produce annually about £20. The income together with a grant of £60 from the Magdalen Charity and a donation of £2 2s. from the Fishermen's Society is applied to the general purposes of the institute.

Beau Site Convalescent Home was founded by a deed poll dated 26 October 1886 which recites that Maria, Eliza, and Sarah Brisco conveyed to trustees freehold premises known as Beau Site in White Rock Gardens, Hastings, to be used as a convalescent home for the gratuitous reception of persons recovering from non-infectious maladies, accidents, or other causes. The administration of the home is entirely in the hands of a committee. The total annual income, derived for the most part from voluntary subscriptions and donations, is approximately £1,800.

Eliza Brisco by her will proved in London on 12 April 1890 gave £2,500 to the Beau Site Convalescent Home; and Sarah Brisco by her will proved in London on 25 February 1901 gave £2,500.

Miss Marianne Frances Hasker by first codicil to her will proved in London on 4 September 1903 directed her trustees to give £1,500 to the Beau Site Convalescent Home upon the conditions that it be retained as capital, that a bed be named in perpetuity after her, and that the rector of St. Mary Magdalen shall be a life governor and shall be entitled to nominate 30 persons for admission to the home.

The Manse held in connexion with the Clive Vale Congregational Chapel, founded by indenture dated 22 August 1919, is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners of 5 August 1925 which provides that the endowment may at any time be applied towards the purchase of a new manse for the minister of the chapel but that in the meantime the trustees shall pay the clear yearly income of the charity to the minister. The manse has now been sold and, after various payments, the balance of the proceeds invested by the Official Trustees, producing about £15 annually.

The Clive Vale Congregational Church endowments, comprised in an indenture dated 11 August 1887, and James Griffin's Charity, founded by will proved in London on 6 February 1899, are regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners of 22 December 1925 which directs that they shall be administered by the Sussex Congregational Union [Incorporated]. The endowments produce in dividends £43 which is applied to the incidental expenses of the church.

Francis Lett by his will proved at Lewes on 28 October 1930 gave £500 to the Sussex Congregational Union [Incorporated] upon trust to pay the annual income to the Congregational Church at Clive Vale, Hastings, to be used for repair, renovation, and insurance against fire to the extent of £800 of the stained glass window and brass tablets erected by him and his wife, and subject thereto for the general purposes of the church. The endowment produces £23 10s.

The same donor gave £500 upon trust to pay the annual income to the Sunday school of the above-mentioned church. The endowment produces £23 10s.

Elizabeth Spalding by her will proved in London on 17 December 1888 gave £1,000 to the Congregational Chapel at Mount Pleasant, Hastings, for building additional schools in connexion with the chapel or, should such schools not be required, for such other purposes as the trustees of the chapel shall think proper.

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Congregational Chapel and Trust Property in Mount Pleasant Road comprised in an indenture dated 31 December 1879 is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners of 18 September 1917 which directs that the charity shall be administered by The Sussex Congregational Union [Incorporated].

The Bourne Mission Room, founded by conveyance dated 27 June 1904, was sold for £300 under an order of the Charity Commissioners of 1 April 1927 which directs that the proceeds shall be held and applied by the trustees for such other purposes as they may in their uncontrolled discretion deem to be conducive to the advancement of the work of God.

Alfred Henry Pett by his will proved in London on 15 September 1914 gave £500 to the mayor, aldermen, and councillors of Hastings, the interest to be applied for the sole benefit of deserving children of the town who are permanent residents, and the fund to be administered by the Chief of Police of Hastings. The endowment produces about £18 in dividends. The income is added to the Police Aided Clothing and Boot Fund for the deserving poor.

The County Borough of Hastings Beneficent Trust, comprised in a declaration of trust dated 15 November 1907, whereby Robert William Mitchell and another having raised by public appeal £280 17s. 8d. were desirous of paying the sum to the Official Trustees, the income to be applied in providing annuities to poor persons born in the Borough of Hastings or who have resided there for 20 years and who have actively associated themselves with some public or other work beneficial to the Borough. The charity is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners of 26 September 1916 which appoints the mayor of the Borough of Hastings and the Chairman of the Board of Guardians of Hastings Poor-law Union *ex officio*, and 3 co-optative members as the trustees.

Sir Arthur du Cros during his lifetime gave £300 to the above-mentioned trust. The endowment produces about £16 6s. 8d. annually in dividends and constitutes the 'Du Cros Annuity'.

The Mayor's Annuity consists of subscriptions collected for the widow of a well-known tradesman and given to the above-mentioned trust. The endowment produces about £16 6s. 8d. annually in dividends.

The Founders' Annuity consists of subscriptions collected which founded the Hastings Beneficent Trust, and produces about £16 annually in dividends.

The George Hutchings' Annuity was founded in 1918 by collection as a memorial to the late mayor [Alderman Hutchings] and given to the Hastings Beneficent Trust, the income to be paid to Mrs. Hutchings during her life, and after her death to be paid to her two daughters in equal shares as long as they remain unmarried; should they marry or die the whole income to be applicable for the purposes of the Hastings Beneficent Trust. The endowment produces about £20 annually.

The Hastings and St. Leonards District Nursing and Maternity Association, founded by indentures dated 26 May 1911 and 22 November 1911 whereby the Reverend William Carlisle Sayer Milward, after reciting that by an indenture dated 25 February 1902 an association called the Borough of Hastings District Nursing Association had then lately been founded for the purposes of providing sick poor with the services of trained district nurses, demised to trustees Nos. 2 and 3 Holloway Place in Old London Road, Hastings,

to be used as a residence for nurses employed by the said association and generally for the purposes of the same. The management of the association is vested in a council, but the finances are controlled by a committee consisting of 8 persons elected from and by the council and 1 co-optative. The association is supported mainly by voluntary contributions. The Rev. William John Pinckney by his will proved at Lewes on 3 April 1928 gave £700 to the association. The total income from all sources amounts to approximately £2,000.

William Buchan Gilbert by his will proved in London on 22 May 1915 bequeathed £50, the income to be applied in prizes for shooting or drill for Hastings Companies of the 5th [Cinque Ports] Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment [Territorial]. The officers for the time being of the above-mentioned companies are the trustees. The endowment produces £1 6s.

William Buchan Gilbert's Charity for the Inmates of the Union founded by will proved in London on 22 May 1915 is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 18 July 1930 which directs that the body of trustees shall consist of 2 persons to be appointed by the Council of the Borough of Hastings. The endowment, producing about £1 5s. per annum, is applied every few years towards the old peoples' summer outing.

William Caleb Jenner by his will proved in London on 16 November 1915 directed his trustees to pay an annuity of £10 during the term of 25 years from the date of his death [19 March 1915], to the Robertson Street Congregational Church. He also gave a similar annuity of £10 for the Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Society at Ore in connexion with the church, to be used at the discretion of the society. In case the society shall cease to exist the said church shall apply the annuity for the work of the suburban missions.

James Booty by his will proved in London on 21 September 1918 bequeathed to his trustees £300, the income to be applied in giving an annual dinner to such number not exceeding 60 as his trustees should think fit of poor boys selling newspapers in the streets of Hastings. The endowment produces £11 annually.

The County Borough of Hastings Homes for the Aged Poor in Ashburnham Road were founded and endowed by deed dated 26 September 1921 by Henry John Oldfield and two other persons. The committee of management appointed by the executive committee of the Hastings and St. Leonards Central Aid Council are the trustees. The endowments, together with subscriptions and proceeds of social entertainments, provide an income of approximately £300.

George Topple Hopkins by his will proved in London on 26 May 1923 directed his trustees that on the death of his son Frederick Russell Hopkins his share in the residuary estate be given to the Salvation Army in Hastings, the income to go towards social work among the poor of the town as they think fit.

Ben Harry Went Tree by his will proved at Lewes on 20 September 1927 declared that any gifts made by him shall be called the 'Went Tree Trust' and gave to the corporation of Hastings the freehold premises known as nos. 23 and 24 Mann Street, Hastings, to be converted and used by them as a school for technical educational purposes for the young people of Hastings.

The same donor directed his trustees to hold a half of his residuary estate upon trust to invest the same and to devote the income for the purpose of assisting persons who resided in the borough of Hastings in or

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prior to 1880 or their descendants to emigrate to any of the dominions of the British Empire, and he directed that in no case shall more than £50 be given to any one person or more than £150 to any one family. The residuary estate amounted to £5,809 4s. 2d.

The two following charities connected with All Saints' parish are regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 20 May 1884, varied by schemes of 21 April 1891, 22 February 1895, 1 October 1897, 8 February 1898, 1 May 1900, 31 July 1906, 11 January 1910, and 19 May 1914:

Magdalen Land otherwise Magdalen Charity seems to have originated in the grant by Pernel de Cham, widow, in 1294 to the brothers and sisters of the Hospital of St. Mary Magdalen of Hastings of 5 acres of land in the parish of St. Margaret, Hastings. Queen Elizabeth in the 31st year of her reign gave to the corporation (*inter alia*) all those lands, tenements, and hereditaments called Magdalen's land and Churchfields in Hastings, consisting of about 57 acres.

Thomas Lasher's Charity founded by will, 1701; originally a rent-charge of £3 10s. issuing out of a barn and 4 pieces of land consisting of about 16 acres included in a small farm called Priors in the parishes of Fairlight and All Saints, Hastings, was to be disposed of to the use of the 7 poorest inhabitants of Hastings on Christmas Day. The charge was redeemed in November 1932 by the transfer of £140 2½ per cent. Consols to the Official Trustees. The trustees of the charities are the rectors and churchwardens of All Saints and St. Clement, 3 representative persons, members of the county borough of Hastings, and 6 co-optative. The scheme of 20 May 1884 provides that the net yearly income shall be applied in two equal third parts to the pension and eleemosynary branches. The remaining third part is to be applied to the educational branch, but if in the opinion of the trustees the whole of it cannot be usefully applied for the purposes of that branch they may apply any portion for the purposes of the eleemosynary branch, provided that at least £300 shall be applied to the educational branch. The income of the pension branch shall be applied in payment of pensions of not less than £15 nor more than £30 to persons selected by the trustees as deserving inhabitants of the parishes of All Saints and St. Clement, no pension to be granted for more than 3 years. The income of the eleemosynary branch shall be applied primarily for the general benefit of the poor of these parishes. The income of the educational branch shall be applied towards the education of children resident in the two parishes. The endowments of these two charities, consisting of ground rents and stock, yield an income of about £2,500.

Robert Holmes by his will proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 17 April 1852 directed his executors to purchase £1,500 3 per cent. Consolidated Bank Annuities in the names of the minister of All Saints and 3 other residents of the borough of Hastings to be named by the said minister; the income, after providing for the repair of the vault and tomb erected by him in the churchyard in which his sister, Martha, lies buried, to be distributed amongst the poor of the parish. The endowment produces about £33 15s.

The Coal and Clothing Fund. The date of foundation is not known, but for many years the income, about £6, has been applied by the rector in coal and clothing for the poor of the parish.

Miss Ann Phillips by her will proved at Lewes on

29 April 1872 gave £100 to the rector, the income to go towards the maintenance of the parish church. The endowment produces annually £2 15s. which is paid to the churchwardens for church repairs.

Mrs. Beazeley by declaration of trust dated 17 April 1891 gave to the rector 4 shares of £1 each of the Aerated Bread Company Limited, the income, now about 15s., to be applied for the benefit of the poor.

Alexander Shaw by his will proved in London on 20 February 1892 gave £100 to the rector, the income to be applied in providing food, clothing, or fuel to the poor of the parish. The endowment produces about £2 10s. per annum which, together with the income derived from Beazeley's Charity, is distributed in coal tickets at Christmas.

Miss Marianne Frances Hasker by her will proved in London on 4 September 1903 gave £800 2½ per cent. Consolidated Stock to the rector and churchwardens, the income to be applied towards the relief of the needy poor people of the parish. The endowment consists of the above-mentioned stock held by the Official Trustees producing annually £20 in dividends. The income is applied in providing 4 pensions of £1 per annum, subscriptions to local benevolent institutions, and the balance is expended on milk, grocery, and coal.

Fanny Bishop's Charity for the Fishermen's Church, founded by will proved at Lewes on 28 February 1894, is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 24 February 1911 which directs that the charity be administered by the Chichester Diocesan Trustees. The endowment produces annually about £7 10s., which is paid to the rector of All Saints' Church.

Susannah Heathfield by her will proved at Lewes on 26 February 1918 gave £100 to the rector, the income to be applied to sick poor of the parish with liberty to expend the capital as well until it shall be exhausted. The endowment produces annually about £4 10s. which is distributed in milk tickets, money grants, and eggs.

Certain charities are associated with the parish of St. Clement:

The Samaritan Fund founded by Robert Benjamin Kaye by indenture dated 11 July 1869, and The Widows' Pin Money founded by the same Robert Benjamin Kaye by indenture dated 9 October 1869 are regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 30 January 1906. The endowments produce annually in all nearly £100 in dividends. The income is distributed by the mayor of Hastings and 4 co-optative trustees to about 90 poor persons.

Miss Ann Phillips by her will proved at Lewes on 29 April 1872 gave to the rector £100, the income to be applied towards the maintenance of the parish church. The endowment produces about £2 10s.

Miss Marianne Frances Hasker by her will proved in London on 4 September 1903 gave £800 2½ per cent. Consols to the rector and churchwardens, the income to go towards the relief of needy poor people. The dividends amounting to £20 are so applied.

Church House Charity. By indenture dated 4 November 1905 William Carlisle Sayer Milward conveyed to the Diocesan Trustees a piece of land adjoining the graveyard of St. Clement's Church, Hastings, together with the cottage thereon erected, as a mission room, Sunday school, or night school, classroom, meeting or lecture room, or for any other purpose having in view the spiritual, moral, intellectual, social,

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or physical benefit of the parish or neighbouring parishes as the trustees may think proper. The trustees are the rector and 2 members appointed by the parochial church council. The hall is let out at a varying rental which is applied towards the caretaker's wages and for the general purposes of the charity.

By indenture dated 6 December 1860 Charles Gilbert Eversfield conveyed to trustees a piece of land in the parish of St. Mary Magdalen upon trust for the purposes of an institution to be called the Hastings and St. Leonards-on-Sea Home for Invalid Gentlewomen, to afford a home during illness to gentlewomen of limited means. The committee of management appointed under the rules of the charity are the trustees. Marianne Frances Hasker by her will proved in London on 4 September 1903 left £1,000 for the general purposes of the charity on condition that a room be named the 'Miss M. F. Hasker Room'. Agnes Laming by her will proved in London on 22 September 1928 gave £250 for the general purposes of the home. The endowments produce about £166 annually.

Catherine Beaumont by her will proved in Lewes on 23 March 1900 gave £200 to the above-mentioned home, the income to be applied in assisting any persons in the home to extend their stay when the committee approve. The endowment produces about £10 10s.

William Buchan Gilbert by his will proved in London on 22 May 1915 bequeathed three sums of £50 each, the income to be applied towards the poor funds of the churches of St. Mary in the Castle, St. Andrew and Emmanuel. The vicars and churchwardens are the trustees.

Hastings, St. Andrew. Ellen Dow's Charity for the vicar of the parish church of St. Andrew, founded by will proved in London on 15 September 1896, is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 4 February 1916. The endowment produces about £16 per annum.

Miss Mary Louisa Powers by her will proved in London on 1 June 1922 gave £200, producing about £6 10s. annually, to the rector and churchwardens of St. Andrew's, the income to go towards the deserving poor of the parish.

There are four charities connected with the parish of St. Clement, Halton:

Miss Ann Phillips by her will proved at Lewes on 29 April 1872 gave £100 to the vicar, the income, now about £2 10s., to be applied towards the maintenance of the district church.

Sarah Countess Waldegrave by declaration of trust dated 9 August 1873 gave £500 to the vicar, the income to be applied in tuning and repairing the organ in the church and for salaries of organist and organ blower. The endowment produces annually about £13 10s.

The Parkin Memorial Scripture Trust was founded by declaration of trust dated 23 March 1893 which recites that £145 1s. had been raised to found a memorial to the memory of the Rev. John Parkin, late vicar of St. Clement, Halton, and of the work which for 49 years he did as evangelical clergyman, the income to be applied in providing prizes to children of the parish under 15 years of age who show the greatest proficiency in knowledge of Holy Scripture. The trustees are the vicar and 4 co-optative persons. The endowment produces annually £4 4s.

Miss Marianne Frances Hasker by will proved in London on 4 September 1903 directed her trustees to give £500 to the House of Sacred Compassion

Home for Crippled Children on the conditions that £50 of it shall be applied towards the cost of the balcony erected at the home for open-air treatment of the children, that the balance be retained as capital, the income being applied for the general purposes of the home, and that the crippled child for whose support she contributed £5 per annum be retained in the home. The endowment consists of Stock held by the Mother Superior and others, producing annually about £17 10s.

St. Leonards-on-Sea. Mary Anne Sanders by her will proved in London on 2 January 1894 gave the sum of £1,000 to the treasurer of the Hertfordshire Convalescent Home at St. Leonards for the purpose of creating an annuity to be called 'The Elizabeth Abram Annuity'. The endowment produces £23 per annum which is applied towards the upkeep of the home. The home is for the benefit of people resident in the county of Hertford.

The Alexandra Home for Chronic Invalids is comprised in an indenture of lease dated 6 June 1894 which, whilst declaring no special trusts, covenanted that the premises should be used only for the purposes of the home, which is for women who have broken down in health whilst earning their livelihood. The charity is administered by a committee. The endowment produces about £97 per annum.

Miss Marianne Frances Hasker by her will proved in London on 4 September 1903 gave £1,500 to the above home.

Elizabeth Mirlees by her will proved at Lewes on 25 July 1902 gave the sum of £20,000 to be invested and the interest applied among other things to the Buchanan Hospital. The endowment produces about £580 per annum. A scheme of the High Court of Chancery dated 11 December 1916 provides that at least two-thirds of the income shall be applied for the benefit of the Buchanan Hospital. Any residue is applicable for medical and surgical charities in England and Wales.

Charles Green by his will proved in London on 17 October 1905 gave the sum of £1,500 to the Buchanan Hospital to found beds to be known as 'Beds for the stranger'. The endowment produces in dividends about £78. The income is applied towards the special purposes fund of the hospital.

Matilda Burrell by her will proved in London on 31 July 1907 gave the sum of £1,000 to the above-mentioned hospital for the purpose of maintaining a bed to be called the 'Burrell Trust Bed'. The endowment produces approximately £41.

Fanny Pontifex by her will proved at Lewes dated 3 March 1915 gave £1,000 to the above hospital for the purpose of maintaining a bed to be named the 'Fanny Pontifex Bed'. The endowment produces in dividends approximately £53 11s.

Alice Amelia Newson by her will proved in London on 23 June 1919 gave the sum of £1,250 to the above hospital for the purpose of maintaining a bed to be called 'W. & A. Newson Bed'. The endowment produces about £71 10s. per annum.

Sarah Corry by her will proved in London on 25 April 1918 gave her freehold house known as 'Fairfield', Boscombe Road, to the above hospital. The property was sold and the proceeds now form part of the general endowment of the hospital.

Eversfield Chest Hospital founded by deed dated 7 December 1905 was virtually founded by Dr. Gambier in February 1891 and used by him as a

hospital for consumption and diseases of the chest. The hospital is supported by voluntary subscriptions including donations from the Hospital Saturday Fund and the Hastings Hospital Fund.

Emma Morrison by her will proved at Lewes on 31 October 1911 gave £1,050 upon trust to found a bed or beds in a hospital to be called 'George Edward Morrison Beds'. The endowment, now producing £47 12s. per annum, is applied for the general purposes of the Eversfield Chest Hospital.

Mrs. Sarah Laura Geldart by her will dated 7 August 1902 directed her executors to distribute the net residue of her estate among one or more hospitals for the cure of diseases. Under a scheme of distribution approved by an order of the Chancery division of the High Court of Justice dated 5 June 1916 £1,000 was allotted to the Eversfield Chest Hospital with permission to apply the same in building. The endowment was in consequence applied towards the expenses in connexion with the Cliff Wall.

The Rev. Thomas William Haworth by his will proved in London on 2 October 1920 gave one-third of the residue of his estate to St. Peter's Grange Home of Rest. The endowment, now producing in dividends £50 per annum, is applied towards the general purposes of St. Peter's Holiday House.

Katherine Countess O'Clery by her will and codicil proved at Lewes on 30 September 1919 gave her house at 23 Church Road together with the furniture and effects to the trustees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Southwark to be used for any purpose in connexion with the Roman Catholic Church of St. Thomas of Canterbury at St. Leonards. She also gave 3 houses, which were sold and the proceeds were invested, producing nearly £113 per annum towards the upkeep of the home, which is used in connexion with the church and with the residence of the priests thereof and for sick or aged priests and of clerical students of the Roman Catholic faith.

The Bagshawe Bible Endowment Fund founded by declaration of trust dated 30 April 1923 whereby a sum of £20 was given to the Governors of the Hastings Grammar School to invest and apply the dividends annually in the provision of a bible as a prize for proficiency in knowledge of scripture and for good conduct of a boy attending West St. Leonards Council School. The endowment produces about £1 per annum which is expended in accordance with the trusts.

Catherine Dorothy Wilson by her will proved at Lewes on 9 January 1905 gave her estate to trustees of Christ Church, St. Leonards, for the general purposes of the church. The endowment produces in dividends £54 10s.

Thomas Trollope by his will proved in London on 3 June 1905 gave £1,000 to the rector and church-

wardens of Christ Church to apply the income at Christmas for the benefit of the sick and poor. The endowment in 1931 produced in dividends £40 16s. 2d.

Mrs. Bourdillon during her lifetime gave to the rector of Christ Church the sum of £100 for the poor. The income, of about £4 4s., is applied with Thomas Trollope's Charity in gifts of 1s. per week to seventeen old ladies, and the balance is given to the sick and poor fund of the church.

Miss Mary Ann Robilliard by her will proved at Lewes on 10 May 1909 gave £200 to the trustees of the Christ Church crèche towards its support.

Fanny Back by her will proved in London on 28 August 1912 gave to the rector of Christ Church £1,000 to be applied by him towards the endowment of the living. The legacy was invested, producing in dividends approximately £39 per annum. The same testatrix gave to the rector and churchwardens of St. Mary Magdalen £100 for the endowment of the church. This sum was handed to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to add to other sums already held by them for the church. She also gave £100 for the fabric of the church. This sum was utilized towards the expenses of installing a new heating apparatus in the church in 1914.

Ann Wilson by her will proved in London on 11 March 1925 gave £300 to the vicar and churchwardens of St. Matthew, Silverhill, the income arising therefrom, which is about £15, to be applied in the upkeep of the parish or church room.

Edith Kathleen Frances Allen by her will proved in London on 18 April 1931 gave £200 to the Chichester diocesan fund to be held in trust for the parochial church council of St. Mary Magdalen to apply the interest for the endowment of the living. She also gave £300 to the diocesan fund for the endowment fund of the church. The two bequests produce about £18 10s. yearly.

Thomas Trollope by his will proved in London on 3 June 1905 gave £500 to the rector and churchwardens of St. Paul, to apply the income towards the stipend of the curate or curates licensed to the church. He also gave them a further £500 to apply the income towards such ecclesiastical purposes as the trustees should think fit. The total income of the two charities, about £33, is paid to the curate.

Sarah Brisco by her will proved in London on 25 February 1901 gave to the vicar and churchwardens of St. Peter's £1000 to apply the income for the benefit of the poor of the parish. The endowment consists of about $\frac{1}{4}$ acre of land situate at Clarence Road, Eastbourne, producing £36 per annum and £64 Borough of Hastings Stock producing in dividends £2 4s. 10d. per annum. The income is paid to the sick and poor fund by the vicar.

THE CINQUE PORTS

The alteration of the coastline in East Sussex plays an important part in the history of that district. When Cnut granted the manor of Rameslie to the abbey of Fécamp (c. 1030), and for a long time afterwards, there were numerous bays and creeks forming harbours which are now silted up and reclaimed as marshland. The Downs formed promontories with creeks between them, into which flowed numerous rivers and streams. The mouth of the principal river, the Rother, was then at Romney¹ not, as now, at Rye Bay, and ships could not only go up to Rye and Winchelsea but



CINQUE PORTS. *England dimidiating Azure three hulls of ships or.*

to places farther inland like Bodiam, Tenterden, and Appledore. Gradually, in consequence of the eastward drift, beach was carried from promontory to promontory forming lagoons with gaps in the lines of beach to allow for the ebb and flow of the tidal waters. By the accumulation of shingle and sand from the sea and of mud and other matter carried down by the rivers, the lagoons and creeks became silted up and formed marsh lands.² Further, the inning or reclamation of the marsh land, which was begun in Roman times and vigorously continued through Norman and later periods, reduced the volume of land water, thus diminishing its scouring action and choking the entrances to the harbours. On the other hand, great parts of the marsh lands exposed to the open sea at Fairlight, Pett, Icklesham, and Brede had been submerged during the 50 years preceding 1341.³ Other causes, such as denuding the land of trees, the disposal of ballast from ships, the alteration of currents, and the increased size of ships all tended to reduce the importance of the ancient harbours and ports.

The importance of the southern Kentish and eastern Sussex ports was derived from their geographical position as the nearest ports of passage to and from the Continent. The Crown, possibly before the Conquest, made arrangements with the ports individually for the performance of sea services in return for privileges, but there is no evidence at this time of any confederation among the ports. In the disputes between Edward and Godwin, Hastings and Sandwich took the side of the king while Dover, Romney, and Hythe were held by Godwin, to whose party Hastings was later enticed.⁴ The influence of the house of Godwin was strong in this district; and this fact, combined with their joint participation in the herring fishery off Yarmouth, would form a bond of association between the Five

Ports and lay the foundations for the later confederation. After the Conquest the intercourse between England and Normandy naturally increased, and as a consequence the services of the ports became more strictly enforced and defined.

The Domesday Survey gives us no information as to the Sussex ports, but we find that at Dover the service of 20 ships for 15 days was rendered to the Crown in return for the liberties of soc and sac, and as the services due from Hastings were at a later date identical with those from Dover it is reasonable to suppose that they were so in 1086. At Sandwich the services were said to be similar to those at Dover. At Romney 21 burghesses belonging to Langport had all dues and other fines in return for their sea services. At Hythe there is no reference to such procedure.⁵ Thus from the Domesday evidence it is clear that Dover, Sandwich, and Romney had each bargained separately with the Crown regarding their sea services. It should be noted that in later times, although the Cinque Ports owed 15 days service with a total of 57 ships, each carrying 21 men and a boy, any failure to perform the full service led to action by the Crown against the individual ports responsible and not against the ports as a body. That there was no close confederacy among the ports is further borne out by the series of charters granted individually to all the ports by Henry II early in his reign.⁶ These charters are undated, but those for Hastings and Sandwich were given at Westminster, and from the witnesses must have been granted between the early part of 1155 and 1158, probably in December 1155 when Henry kept Christmas at Westminster.⁷ The charter to Hythe is dated from Dover, and for the like reason must be between 1154 and 1157; as we know that Henry and the only two witnesses were at Dover from 2 to 10 January 1156 we may perhaps take this as being the date of the charter.⁸ We know from confirmations that charters were also granted by Henry II to Dover and Rye and Winchelsea, probably about the same time; the two latter together had one charter which was confirmed by Richard I in 1191.⁹ All the charters were separately confirmed by King John in June 1205, when he collected a fleet at Portsmouth for the invasion of France.¹⁰

The charter to Rye and Winchelsea is modelled upon that to Hastings with the omission of a few special privileges; and the charters both to Hastings and to Rye and Winchelsea¹¹ are of a different type from those to the Kentish ports of Dover, Sandwich, and Hythe,¹² the liberties enjoyed under them differing materially. There is no reference to any charters granted to the ports before Henry II, and the Sussex ports claimed no customs earlier than those they had

¹ It is, however, probable that there was always a branch of the Rother running down to the estuary at Rye.

² See *History*, xi, 104.

³ *Inquis. Non.* (Rec. Com.), 352, 353, 373.

⁴ *Anglo-Sax. Chron.*, sub annis 1050,

1052. ⁵ *V.C.H. Kent*, iii, 215b, 238b.

⁶ The charters of Henry II for Hythe, Lydd, and Dengemarsh, Sandwich, and Hastings were inspected by Edward II in 1313 and are printed in *Cal. Chart.* 1300-26, pp. 219-21.

⁷ L. F. Salzman, *Hen. II*, 242.

⁸ *Ibid.*; Round, *Geoff. de Mandeville*, 237.

⁹ *Cal. Chart.* 1300-26, pp. 219-20.

¹⁰ *Rot. Chart.* (Rec. Com.), 153-4.

¹¹ *Cal. Chart.* 1300-26, pp. 219-21; *Rot. Chart.* (Rec. Com.), 153.

¹² *Ibid.*

THE CINQUE PORTS

enjoyed in the time of Henry I. The Kentish ports of Dover and Hythe, however, received confirmations of privileges based on customs traditionally going back to the time of Edward the Confessor, William I and II, and Henry I. Sandwich obtained confirmation of customs claimed to be in use in the time of William I and Henry I, and Romney to those in use in the time of Henry I. We thus see that only Dover and Hythe claimed customs going back to the time of Edward the Confessor and they and Sandwich claimed customs going back to the time of William the Conqueror, but all the Ports claimed customs going back to Henry I.

The earliest reference discovered to the Cinque Ports as a confederation is in a charter by Henry II to the men of the Archbishop of Canterbury, of Lydd and Dengemarsh, who owed a fifth part of the service of ships with the men of Romney, that they might be quit of toll and other customs as they were in the time of Henry I and as the men of Hastings are and ought to be quit by custom of the Cinque Ports.¹ The charter was given at Winchester, and from the witnesses its date must be between 1155 and 1158 and is probably on or about 20 September 1155, when we know Henry was at Winchester.² In 1161 Henry II hired ships of the Cinque Ports to carry the treasury beyond the sea³ and from this date references to the Cinque Ports are fairly frequent. By 1200, and in 1207, the men of the Cinque Ports were pleading their customs and immunities in the king's courts.⁴ From the charter to Lydd it is clear, not only that the Cinque Ports were a recognized confederation in 1155, but that the confederacy had then been in existence long enough to have established a custom. Even at this date a custom to be good must have been in use from 'a time whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary'; hence, the custom of the Cinque Ports as a confederation cannot have originated later than the beginning of the 12th century. If, as seems to be clear, the confederation had its origin after the date of the Domesday Survey (1086) and allowing perhaps 50 years for the memory of man, we have but the short period of the reign of William II and the beginning of that of Henry I in which to place the rise of the confederation. Its rise, however, was no doubt gradual and started merely as a bond of similar interests in the North Sea fishery and of similar responsibilities for sea services.

The confederacy of towns was not uncommon on the Continent and Dr. Round suggested that 'the Cinque Ports corporation was of foreign origin and an offshoot of the communal movement in northern France'; for which conclusions he has given his reasons.⁵ He further thought 'that the reign of Henry I may have witnessed the superimposing of a communal confederacy on the existing institutions of the several ports'.⁶ But it is clear that the communal development was not as complete throughout the ports as he imagined. He points out that 'the mayor and his twelve pairs, jurats (or jurés) or échevins, were an essential feature of the *commune*'⁷ and it was 'the communal

principle that the commune should hold directly of the King and not of any mediate lord';⁸ yet neither of these rules can be completely applied to the Ports. Hastings, Romney, and Hythe had no mayor until a comparatively recent time, and the mayor and his jurats do not appear at the other ports until towards the end of the 13th century. Further, Romney and Hythe were held by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who appointed his own bailiffs and left the freemen the election only of the jurats; and Hastings, Rye, and Winchelsea were also for a time, until the 13th century, held by mediate lords.⁹

The customals of the separate ports further point to their independent development. They show that the constitutions under bailiffs or mayors and jurats, the elections of bailiffs or mayors, the admission of freemen, the methods of executing criminals, and other customs differed considerably. On the other hand, a number of the customs which seem to be of a later date are similar, and were evidently drawn up by concerted action. Lyon states that Roger Mortimer, constable of Dover Castle, acting as warden of the Cinque Ports, in the reign of Edward III called for copies of the customals in order that he might regulate his decisions as judge of the court of Shepway.¹⁰ The existing copies of the customals of Hastings and Romney are dated 1356 and this is probably the time at which they were reduced to writing.¹¹ As might be expected, the customals of Rye and Winchelsea were modelled on that of Hastings, and both they and the customal for Romney show a later date in various points, particularly by their custom of executing their criminals by hanging instead of by the custom practised at Hastings of drowning them at Stordisdale, a watercourse near Bulverhythe. The latter custom prevailed also at Dover, where the condemned person was thrown over a cliff called Sharpness. The execution of criminals by drowning is of Scandinavian or Teutonic origin and probably carries the custom back beyond the Conquest.¹² At Sandwich the method of execution was burial alive at Thief's Down near Sandown, which was another ancient form of punishment. An early custom at Hastings, which may go back to the time of the Saxon gilds, was for a freeman to give to the bailiff and commonalty a cask of wine on his admission, after having taken the oath to the king and commonalty, and kissed the bailiff on the right cheek. Again, the elections took place at all the ports at 'the common assembly' which corresponded to the Saxon 'folkmete'. Except at Dover and Sandwich, where in the 14th century the people met in the principal churches, the election was held in the open air, where, according to Saxon superstition, it was less likely to be influenced by evil spirits. All the freemen over 12 years of age were called together at Hastings, Dover, Sandwich, and Romney by blowing 'the common horn' in divers parts of the towns and at Rye by ringing 'the common bell'. If the mayor, or the elected bailiff, or any of the elected jurats, refused to serve the office to which he was

¹ Ibid. 220. It is convenient to use the term 'Cinque Ports', but until the 16th century their usual title in English documents was 'the Five Ports'.

² Salzman, loc. cit.

³ *Pipe R. Soc.* iv, pp. 56, 59.

⁴ *Curia Regis R.* i, 327; v, 28.

⁵ *Feudal Eng.* 558.

⁶ Ibid. 562.

⁷ Ibid. 559.

⁸ Ibid. 561.

⁹ See a criticism on Round's theories by Petit-Dutaillis in *Studies Supplementary to Stubbs' Constit. Hist.* 86-7; Prof. Tait, *Proc. Brit. Acad.* vol. x.

¹⁰ Lyon, *Hist. of Dover*, ii, 266, 343.

¹¹ The customals are printed as follows: In Lyon, *Hist. of Dover*, ii, Dover, pp. 267-86; Sandwich, pp. 287-311; Romney, pp. 312-43; Rye, pp. 344-69; Winchelsea, pp. 370-87; In *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiv, Hastings, pp. 72-80; Holloway, *Hist. of*

Rye, Rye, pp. 137-58; Winchelsea, Cooper, *Hist. of Winchelsea*, pp. 218-27, and *Suss. N. and Q.* vol. vi.

¹² *Mun. Gild. Lond.* (Rolls Ser.), vol. ii, pt. i, lxxxiv. Drowning was superseded at Hastings by hanging in the time of Edward IV (*Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiv, 73 n.). For the execution of criminals by drowning or burial alive see the code of laws for the sailors on Crusaders' ships temp. Rich. I: Brooks, *The English Naval Forces*, 49.

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elected, the punishment at Hastings, Dover, Sandwich, and Rye was for the freemen to demolish the offender's chief residence, and at Romney, Winchelsea, and possibly Hythe, the offender and his family were ejected from their house, which was sealed up until the man elected consented to perform his office. Dr. Round suggests that this punishment of communal house demolition is closely connected with the communal customs of Northern France and cannot have been introduced into England earlier than a generation at least after the Conquest.¹ But the fact that this feature is peculiar to certain of the Ports and not universal entirely invalidates any argument based on it as to the confederation.

Besides the common assembly, which was attended by all the freemen and only met for the election of officers and like matters, there was the hundred court at each port which was presided over by the mayor, where the mayoralty had been instituted, and elsewhere by the bailiff, with whom sat the jurats. It met every fourteen days at Hastings and heard all pleas of the Crown, except those specially reserved for the court of Shepway, pleas of land, debts, &c., and it also had the assize of bread and ale. The only appeal from it was to the court of Shepway.² Trials by compurgation were allowed at all the ports.³ Such points of resemblance, however, are no evidence of any confederation, except in the existence of the common court of appeal.

Since the 16th century Hastings has been accepted as the head of the Cinque Ports, and in the charter of incorporation given to Seaford in 1544 Hastings is called 'one and the greatest (*maxima*) of the ancient towns of our Ports'.⁴ But there is no earlier evidence of such a claim, or of any precedence other than that of geographical order (which did result in Hastings coming first in many lists) among the ports; in fact such an idea was expressly repudiated in the orders for the coronation of Queen Eleanor in 1236, when the barons of the various Ports carrying the canopy were carefully mingled 'lest port should seem to be preferred to port'.⁵ Emphasis is sometimes laid upon the fact that in the charters of Henry II the 'honours at court' are confirmed to Hastings alone. But at the coronation of Richard I the barons of Dover and the Cinque Ports presented to the altar of Christ Church, Canterbury, the canopy, 'which they had at the King's coronation of ancient custom',⁶ and Dr. Round has shown that this 'ancient custom' can be carried back with practical certainty to the coronation of King Stephen.⁷ Nor can any stress be laid upon the fact that Henry II applies the term 'barons' to Hastings alone, seeing that in his charter to the men of Lydd he grants them privileges enjoyed by the 'men' of Hastings.⁸ Similar evidence of the loose use of these terms occurs in the charter of John in 1207 giving to the 'barons' of Pevensey the liberties of 'our men of the Cinque Ports'.⁹ The significance of the term 'baron' has been much debated. The Portsmen themselves in the 13th century claimed to be the peers of Earls and Barons, and their parliamentary representatives ranked next

after the lay magnates and above the representatives of the shires and boroughs,¹⁰ the underlying idea being that their military service on the sea constituted a tenure by barony.

Each of the original Five Ports, Hastings, Romney, Hythe, Dover, and Sandwich, was a 'head port' and in course of time is found to have 'members' attached to it, which share its privileges in return for contributing towards its contingent of ships due for the king's service, either providing a definite proportion of the actual ships or making a payment towards their cost. The contingents due in the 12th century were—Hastings and Dover 20 ships each, Romney, Hythe, and Sandwich 5 each. At some time during the 13th century an extra ship was imposed on Hastings and on Dover and, although at a later date this extra levy was apparently shifted on to Sandwich, the total remained fixed at 57 ships; each had a master and a crew of 20 men and a boy, making 1,254 persons in all. They were bound to serve once a year, if given 40 days notice, for 15 days at their own cost and subsequently as long as required at the king's cost. Some difference of opinion seems to have existed as to whether the 15 days were to be reckoned from arrival at the scene of operations or from 'the day on which they hoisted sail to sail to those parts to which they were to go'.¹¹

By the charter of Henry II, confirmed in 1191, Rye and Winchelsea were recognized as members of Hastings, to whose quota they were jointly to supply two ships.¹² They rapidly outdistanced their head port and although technically always members of Hastings were in the 14th century put on a level with the Five Ports and known, then or shortly afterwards, as the 'Ancient Towns'.¹³ By this time Hastings was finding only 3 ships, Winchelsea 10, and Rye 5; of the remaining three one was provided by the Lowey of Pevensey, one by Bulverhithe with Petit Iham (a detached portion of the Liberty of Hastings locally in Winchelsea), and one by Bekesbourne (an inland Kentish manor given by Henry II to Hugh de Bec, master of the royal yacht (*esnecca*) at Hastings),¹⁴ while Grange (at the mouth of the Medway) owed the service of two men with oars.¹⁵ In addition to these members, the two small towns of Hydneye and Northeeye, in Pevensey Levels but outside the Lowey, were attached to Hastings from very early times; but Northeeye disappears after about 1350, probably owing to the ravages of the Black Death.¹⁶ Seaford is found intermittently as a quasi-member, but was practically outside the confederation until it was incorporated as a member of Hastings in 1544.¹⁷ The impoverishment of Rye in the 15th century led to the incorporation of Tenterden as a member of that town in 1449,¹⁸ but Winchelsea never obtained any sub-member.

The barons of the Cinque Ports also played an important part in connexion with the fisheries, which were in the Middle Ages of vital importance to the life of the nation. The ports were the chief source of this supply, and we learn from the charters that special

¹ *Feudal Engl.* 552, 562. The custom is found elsewhere in England, and in Dublin and the Scottish burghs: K. M. E. Murray, *Constit. Hist. of the Cinque Ports*, 10.

² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiv, 75, 77.

³ *Ibid.* 73.

⁴ *Ibid.* xlv, 49.

⁵ *Ibid.* 46.

⁶ *Ibid.* Later, if a king and queen were crowned together, Dover and the east ports had one canopy, which they gave to Canterbury, Hastings and the west Ports the other, which they gave to Chichester. After the Reformation the Ports divided the spoils among themselves: *ibid.* 47.

⁷ *The King's Serjeants*, 330.

⁸ Murray, *op. cit.* 232-3.

⁹ *Ibid.* 235.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* 30, 31.

¹¹ *Ibid.* 241.

¹² *Ibid.* 235.

¹³ *Ibid.* 44.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* 47.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* 242.

¹⁶ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 511.

¹⁷ Murray, *op. cit.* 44, 47. ¹⁸ *Ibid.* 48.

THE CINQUE PORTS

rights were granted to them in regard to the autumnal herring catch, the temporary base of which was in the neighbourhood of Yarmouth. The Cinque Ports men went thither yearly, even before the Conquest, to meet the herring shoals, and at an early date a great fair came into existence, belonging by overlordship to the Ports, whose charters granted, at first to Hastings but eventually to all of them, perpetual rights to 'den and strond' (dune and shore).¹ The claim of the Ports to share the magisterial bench at Yarmouth and to preserve discipline at the time of the fair led to such increasing friction that in 1278 Edward I was compelled to interfere and issue his famous edict or 'Dite',² giving Yarmouth a definite right to manage its own affairs. At the same time the control of the herring fair was definitely assigned to the bailiffs of the Ports, who had four serjeants, one to carry the banner, one to blow the horn at the proclamation of the fair, and two to keep order. The bailiffs, however, seem originally to have been responsible only for the members of their individual ports, and it was not until 1357 that they became representatives of the Cinque Ports as a body.³ They were chosen at the Brodhull⁴ assembly, and were provided with appropriate robes and sufficient funds for their expenses. By the 17th century, however, this interference with Yarmouth affairs had degenerated into a mere farce, having proved to be an unsatisfactory burden to the ports as well as a source of friction with the Yarmouth people, and thus came to an end.⁵

The loss of Normandy by John in 1204 altered the outlook of the Cinque Ports. Normandy, which since the Conquest had been part of the possessions of the kings of England, became an enemy country from which an invasion might be expected. John realized the changed aspect of affairs and while confirming the rights of the individual ports he emphasized their confederacy by appointments of Wardens of the Ports. In 1216 John wrote to the barons of the Cinque Ports, when the Ports were in the hands of Louis of France, that as he was unwilling that they should have an alien head or master, he sent them William Earl Warenne to keep and defend them on his behalf.⁶ This is the earliest appointment we have of an officer to supervise the Cinque Ports generally. Robert de Nereford probably acted as warden about 1220 and 1224.⁷ In 1226 William de Averanches, constable of Dover Castle, and Turgis, the reeve of Dover, were appointed wardens during pleasure, and the barons of the ports were ordered to go to Shepway where the said bailiffs or wardens would hear lesser pleas (*placita minuta*) referring to the ports, to wit, pleas which did not pertain to the Crown.⁸ In 1235 Hamo de Crevequer and Walerand Tyes (*Teutonicus*) had the custody of the Cinque Ports and the coast from Hastings to Poole. In the following year we have the first of a series of appointments of wardens which seems to be continuous, when Bertram de Criol was given the office. He was

succeeded in 1241 by Peter of Savoy, but in the next year Bertram was again appointed.⁹ It is probable that from this time the office which had been intermittent was permanently maintained, and from the appointment of Stephen de Pencestre in 1268 the offices of Constable of Dover and Warden of the Cinque Ports became inseparable.

In consequence of the establishment of the office of warden, who held the court of Shepway in the place of the king's justices in eyre, we have the first charter to the Cinque Ports collectively. In 1260 Henry III granted to the barons of the ports, for the good services performed during his late passage to France, quittance of common summons before the justices in eyre.¹⁰ Notwithstanding the creation of the office of warden as the king's representative, Hastings and other ports in 1263 made a treaty individually with 'the King's barons', presumably Simon de Montfort's party, to keep the seas, which treaty was later ratified by the king.¹¹ For a long time after this date writs were still addressed, not to the warden but to the ports separately.

As a reward for services rendered by the ports to the army in Wales, particularly in the blockading of Anglesea, Edward I in 1278 granted to the Cinque Ports their first great charter of liberties.¹² This charter gave to the Cinque Ports collectively all the varied privileges conveyed to the Five Ports and Two Ancient Towns (Rye and Winchelsea) individually by Henry II and confirmed by Richard I and John. The liberties are thrown somewhat indiscriminately into the charter so that each port received not only the privileges already granted to it, but all the liberties which had been granted to each of the other ports, causing some confusion and repetition. The early clauses of the charter are compiled almost word for word from the charters to the Sussex ports of Hastings, Rye, and Winchelsea granting quittance from toll, custom, lastage,¹³ tallage, passage, quayage, rivage, sponsage, wreck, &c. Then follow the privileges previously granted to Dover, Hythe, and Sandwich of soc and sac, thol and theam, infangenthef, and the curious additions in the Hythe charter, a repetition in English of some of the privileges granted to the Sussex ports in Latin, such as wreckfree, witfree, lastagefree, and 'lovecofefree'. After this there is a return to the Sussex charters of rights of den and strand at Great Yarmouth, previously granted only to Hastings,¹⁴ and quittance of shires and hundreds. There are some privileges such as outfangenthef, exemption from service on assize, &c., quittance from wine prisage and protection from the burdens of wardship and marriage, not previously granted to any port.

The part that has raised the chief controversy in this charter is the general confirmatory clause. In this the barons of the Cinque Ports were granted their liberties and quittances as they and their ancestors 'had them in the times of Edward, William the first and second, Henry the King our great grandfather (*proavi*), Kings of England, and in the times of King Richard and King

¹ Burrows, *Cinque Ports*, 72.

² Jeake, *Charters of the Cinque Ports*, 13; Burrows, op. cit. 115; Brooks, *Engl. Naval Forces*, 116.

³ Murray, op. cit. 151-3.

⁴ The court of Brodhull seems to have originated as a court for Romney Marsh, made use of by the Ports for their own business: Murray, op. cit., chap. ix.

⁵ See generally Burrows, 116 ff.; Murray, loc. cit.

⁶ *Rot. Litt. Pat.* (Rec. Com.), i, 184 a.

⁷ Lyon, op. cit. 203.

⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1225-32, p. 22.

⁹ *Ibid.* 1232-47, pp. 92, 144, 266, 287. Further as to the office of Warden, cf. Brooks, op. cit. 100-8; Murray, op. cit., chap. vi.

¹⁰ *Cal. Chart.* 1257-1300, p. 25.

¹¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1258-66, p. 272.

¹² *Chart. R.* 6 Edw. I, m. 3, schedule 3, printed in Jeake, *Charters of the Cinque Ports*, p. 7, and a better text in Brooks, op. cit. 125-7.

¹³ Lastage was a due levied on exports.

The Crown received the lastage of Hastings and Rye until the end of the 12th century (Pipe R.); as late as 1334 Winchelsea paid 20s. to the barony of Hastings for the farm of its lastage (*Cal. Inq. p.m.* vii, 625). These items presumably refer to the dues levied on ships not belonging to the ports.

¹⁴ In 1210 the men of Yarmouth brought an action for injuries against the men of Hastings and their subsidiary towns of Winchelsea and Rye only and not against the Five Ports: *Cur. Reg. R.* vi, 90.

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John, our grandfather, and of the lord H., our father, by the charters of the same, as those charters which our same barons have thereof [and which we have inspected],¹ reasonably testify'. It was contended by Prof. Montagu Burrows that this clause carries back a chartered confederation of the Five Ports to the time of Edward the Confessor² and 'only the least informed . . . have placed the act of incorporation later than the date of the Conqueror'.³ Dr. Round, on the other hand, maintained that in this clause the kings are divided into two groups and that Edward I had not seen any charter earlier than that of Richard, whose name heads the second group; it is noteworthy that Richard's charter to Rye and Winchelsea is, he asserts, the earliest charter of which the contents are known. He was evidently unaware of the series of charters granted by Henry II to the ports and inspected by Edward II.

From the evidence already set out it is clear that the charter of 1278 is a compilation from all the charters granted separately to the Ports by Henry II and confirmed by John. The disputed confirmatory clause therein is a careless and loose adaptation from the charters by Henry II to Dover and Hythe in which are confirmed merely the customs and liberties 'had or held in the time of Kings Edward (the Confessor) William the first and second and Henry', without any reference to any charters of those kings. In the case of Hythe, as regards the last sovereign, the words in translation of the Henry II charter are, 'of Henry the King my grandfather' (*avi mei*) and as both charters are those of Henry II the reference must be to Henry I, whereas in the charter of 1278 Edward I in the equivalent paragraph describes King Henry as his great-grandfather (*proavi nostri*) which would refer to Henry II. The drafting of the charter of 1278 is so clumsy that we are compelled to interpret it by the charters from which it is compiled. From these there can be no doubt that the earliest charters referred to are those by Henry II, of most of which we have copies, and the references to earlier sovereigns are only in the nature of the dates at which the customs of each port were in use.

The earliest and most important of the courts of the Cinque Ports was the Court of Shepway.⁴ It may have been derived from the court of the Lathe of Shepway held at Shepway, half a mile east of Lympne, which was a central position for the coastline of the Lathe of Eastry with the boroughs of Sandwich and Dover, the Lathe of Shepway or Limowart⁵ with the boroughs of Hythe and Romney, and the rape of Hastings, having its lathe court, with the boroughs of Hastings and Rye and Winchelsea. Later the coastline of the rape of Pevensey was partly absorbed into the jurisdiction of the ports. The earliest known mention of the court is in the charter by Henry II to the men of Hythe, probably in 1156, where it is provided that no one should plead them elsewhere than at their accustomed court at Shepway.⁶ Again in 1210 the men of Hastings, Rye, and Winchelsea in their

dispute with Yarmouth claimed that they should only answer in their court of Shepway,⁷ and in 1252 the men of Faversham, a member of the port of Dover, received a charter of liberties including the privilege of not being called upon to plead anywhere save at their accustomed place of Shepway.⁸ The rights of the Cinque Ports with regard to this court seem to have been in dispute about 1258,⁹ and possibly this dispute led to the charter of 1260, already referred to, granting the ports quittance of summons before the justices in eyre. The court of Shepway was essentially the king's court and was in origin similar to the ordinary court held before the king's justices in eyre.¹⁰ The articles of the eyre differ little from those delivered to the sheriffs of the various counties, with the addition of one or two articles relating to shipping and a concluding article dealing with all pleas which ought to be heard at Shepway.¹¹ After the institution of the office of warden of the Cinque Ports, who it was provided was always to be a knight or peer of the realm,¹² the court became the warden's court, over which he had to preside personally with the mayors or bailiffs of the ports seated on either side of him.¹³ The office of warden being intermittent until the middle of the 13th century the court was usually held before the king's justices,¹⁴ but occasionally before the warden. In 1281 it was again pleaded that the barons ought not to answer to any suit save in the king's court of Shepway with the important addition of 'before their warden'.¹⁵ It may therefore be assumed that the court was permanently held before the warden after the charter of 1260.

The court of Shepway was supposed to be held at least once a year, but its meetings were irregular. The meeting place was originally at Shepway, as it is said, at the cross there,¹⁶ but later it frequently met at Dover.¹⁷ The number of jurors summoned to attend the court varied at different times; in 1358 it was 12 each from Winchelsea, Rye, Romney, Hythe, Dover, and Sandwich and 6 each from Hastings, Pevensey, Folkestone, Fordwich, and Faversham. The court from the 13th century heard only appeals from the local courts, to which it was the final court of appeal, and charges of treason, counterfeiting the king's seal, making false money, treasure trove, withdrawal of sea services, taking excessive custom and omission to make execution after judgement. The punishment for treason and counterfeiting the king's seal or money was for the convict to be drawn about the place at Shepway in the presence of the warden, mayors, and bailiffs and then hanged. All pleas were to be in English, not as was usual in the king's court in Norman French.¹⁸ The court of Shepway ceased to function about 1600 and was replaced by the court of St. James at Dover,¹⁹ except for the installation of the warden, who continued to take the oath to uphold the privileges of the ports before a special session of the Shepway.²⁰

Like most of the privileges of the Cinque Ports their courts of Chancery and Admiralty were prescriptive.²¹

¹ These words are interlineated in enrolment on Charter Roll.

² *The Cinque Ports*, pp. 26, 55, 62.

³ *Ibid.* 56.

⁴ Murray, *op. cit.*, chap. v.

⁵ *V.C.H. Kent*, iii, 181, 203b.

⁶ *Cal. Chart.* 1300-26, p. 219.

⁷ *Cur. Reg. R.* vi, 90.

⁸ *Cal. Chart.* 1226-57, p. 392.

⁹ *Cal. Close*, 1256-9, p. 336.

¹⁰ *Rot. Litt. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 213, 214.

¹¹ *Ibid.* 213.

¹² Customal of Dover in Lyon, *op. cit.* i, 283-4.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ *Royal and Hist. Letters Hen. III* (Rolls Ser.), i, 328-9; *Cal. Close*, 1227-31, pp. 90, 111-12.

¹⁵ *Abbrev. Plac.* (Rec. Com.), 273.

¹⁶ R. Holworthy, *Rec. of New Romney*, 2.

¹⁷ In 1525 it was held at Hythe, in which parish Shepway lay.

¹⁸ Customal of Dover in Lyon, *op. cit.* ii, 284.

¹⁹ Murray, *op. cit.* 73.

²⁰ *Ibid.* 75.

²¹ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1611-18, p. 408; *S.P. Dom. Jas. I*, vol. lxxxix, no. 132; civ, no. 106; cxii, no. 72.

At the end of the 16th century the parties to an action could show no charter establishing a Chancery Court at Dover.¹ It was then stated that the inhabitants of the ports had sometimes been allowed their court of jurisdiction in cases of equity, but this had been rather *in partem solitudinis* than *in supplementum potestatis* of the High Court of Chancery.² Records of the court are extant from the reign of Edward VI to 1889.³

The admiralty jurisdiction of the Lord Warden was a matter of controversy throughout the 17th century⁴ but it has been held without dispute since that time. The court is now presided over by a judge appointed by the Lord Warden. Both the Court of Chancery and Admiralty and the Court of Lodemanage or Pilotage were held in the church of St. James in Dover.⁵

The foregoing courts represented the Crown jurisdiction over the ports; the popular courts were the Brodhull (corrupted to Brotheryeld, Brotherhood, or Brood) and Guestling. In 1224 Henry III commanded the barons of the Cinque Ports to meet Geoffrey de Lucy at 'Brodhull',⁶ which apparently was near the shore at Dymchurch, to receive the king's orders. It is uncertain whether this refers to a meeting of the court, otherwise the earliest undoubted meeting is at the end of the 14th century but, as Professor Burrows points out, there is no indication that it was then a new institution.⁷ The Guestling Court is thought to be of a later date than the Brodhull. Dr. Round has suggested that the Brodhull may have been originally for the eastern ports and the Guestling for the western.⁸ There is evidence that the Guestling was for the Sussex ports, and in the 14th century it was held at Hastings, Rye, or Winchelsea.⁹ In 1517 a question having arisen at Rye as to the jurisdiction of the Cinque Ports in a case of outfangenthef, the mayor and jurats wrote to Hastings and Winchelsea to have an assembly at Winchelsea and 'a court called a Guestling to be holden there according to the old usages of the said three towns of old times used'.¹⁰ The term gradually came to be applied to extraordinary meetings of the ports representatives and even to special sessions of the Brodhull.¹¹ In 1526 and 1528

two Guestlings were held on the same day the one for the eastern ports at Dover and the other for the western ports at Winchelsea.¹² The Brodhull was usually held at the Brodhull or Brood House in Romney, which was ordered to be repaired in 1571, 1586, and 1626.¹³ Later, and perhaps in the 15th century, it was held in the church of Romney and sometimes in St. Mary's Church, Dover.¹⁴ In 1583 it was ordered that the Brodhull or Brood should be kept at Romney and in 1663 both Brood and Guestling were to be held at Romney.¹⁵ Before the 17th century the courts were held at regular intervals but special Brotherhoods or Guestlings could be called as required. They were held very irregularly during the 17th century and only once in about 20 or 25 years in the 18th century.¹⁶ In 1828 it was considered that no greater interval than 7 years should elapse between the sessions of a Brotherhood or a Brotherhood and Guestling.¹⁷

The proceedings of the Brodhull and Guestling seem to have been similar. At them were elected the speaker and bailiffs to the Fair at Yarmouth, and the number and tonnage of the ships for the king's service was also decided.¹⁸ The matters taken, however, were chiefly of a disciplinary or consultative nature. They had power to imprison and impose fines.¹⁹ By the 17th century the two courts had become amalgamated, they had but one clerk and cases could be transferred from one to the other.²⁰

Gradually from the 16th century the privileges of the Cinque Ports were attacked or fell into disuse. The sea services in return for which they held their liberties ceased in the 17th century. Withernam, or the right to seize the goods of any merchant stranger who came from a town where a fellow townsman owed money to a freeman of the ports, the exercise of which was granted at the Brodhull, was disputed throughout the 16th century. It was seldom enforced after 1600 and the last mention of it is in 1669.²¹ It became very difficult to induce freemen to go as bailiffs to Yarmouth and the last election seems to have taken place in 1663.²² Of the more important privileges, that of the coronation service, alone remains.

BOROUGH OF RYE

La Rye, Rie (xii-xv cent.).²³

The town of Rye stands on an eminence surrounded on the west, south, and east by the Tillingham, Brede, and Rother rivers,²⁴ which provided at their confluence an excellent harbour, and ships of small size can still pass up the Rother.²⁵ The main quay, so often referred to, was in the creek on the west of the town, but probably harbourage was provided both on the east and west sides.²⁶ A narrow isthmus connected the town with Rye Hill, immediately to the north. Rye

parish extends up the hill and to the west of it. The area of the parish was gradually increased by the reclaiming of much surrounding marsh land. Rye town was separated from the rest of the parish in 1247, when it was recovered by Henry III from Fécamp Abbey. The boundaries of the town liberties were then defined as going half-way up Rye Hill, passing along the boundary of the Hospital of St. Bartholomew and westwards towards 'Blykewell', thence to the Tillingham River, the bounds of Udimore, and so to the

¹ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1595-7, p. 138.

² *Add. MS.* 34148, fol. 162.

³ *Journ. Arch. Assoc.* p. 394 et seq.

⁴ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1611-18, p. 325; 1619-23, p. 101; *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* vi, App. p. 304a; *S.P. Dom. Jas. I.* vol. lxxxix, no. 132.

⁵ M. Burrows, *Cinque Ports*, 83, 188.

⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1216-25, p. 465.

⁷ Burrows, *op. cit.* 75; *Add. MS.* 34148, fol. 121.

⁸ Round, *Feudal Engl.* 570 n.

⁹ Murray, *op. cit.* 193.

¹⁰ S. Jeake, *op. cit.* (1728), 31, 90-3.

¹¹ Murray, *op. cit.* 197.

¹² *Index of Great White Bk.* 58, 60.

¹³ *Ibid.* 33, 85, 101.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* 76, 133; Maj. M. Teichman-Derville, *Town and Port of New Romney*, 28.

¹⁵ *Index*, 84, 118.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* 124.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* 129.

¹⁸ Burrows, *op. cit.* 172; *Index*, *passim*.

¹⁹ *Index*, 93 and *passim*.

²⁰ *Ibid.* 94, 108, 109, 124.

²¹ *Ibid.* 120.

²² *Ibid.* 117.

²³ *Place-Names of Suss.* (Place-Name Soc.), ii, 536.

²⁴ It has been alleged by Camden, Dugdale, and later writers that before the storms of c. 1287 the Rother reached the sea near Romney; but it is more probable that a branch always came down to Rye and that the blocking of the mouth at Romney only increased the volume of the existing Rye branch.

²⁵ Horsfield, *Hist. of Suss.* i, 489: vessels of 200 tons able to sail up to the quay (c. 1832).

²⁶ Vycars Creke and Spaynardyscreke are named in 1524: *Aug. Off. Misc. Bks.* 436.

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estuary.¹ The remainder of the parish was from that time called Rye Foreign, and was held as part of the manor of Brede. In 1934 parts of the parishes of Rye Foreign, East Guldeford, and Playden were merged in the Borough of Rye, and other parts of Rye Foreign were transferred to Peasmarsh and Udimore. The total area is now 2,485 acres, of which 1,016 acres lie within the borough.² The reclaimed marsh land provides good pasturage, and hops are grown farther inland, but the provision of corn was in early days a problem for the town. Formerly connexion with the mainland can only have been by road up Rye Hill or across the ferry to Udimore. Additional roads now lead eastwards to Appledore and New Romney, and south to Winchelsea, while the railway, built in 1849, connects the town with Hastings on the one hand and, through Ashford, with London on the other.³

Considerable changes have taken place in the layout of the town since medieval times, chiefly owing to the action of the sea on its east side in the 14th and 15th centuries whereby a large portion was eaten away. The Land Gate facing north indicates the line of the street which formerly led along the east side round to the present Ypres Tower. Several of the little lanes mentioned in the old deeds were probably those which opened up connexion with the way along the walls, among which was 'Schytbourg-lane',⁴ leading to the eastern shore, possibly a continuation of the present Ockmans Lane. Badding's Gate stood at the south-east corner of the town, now occupied by the Town Salts and recreation ground. The present Wish Ward, near the Strand, may have been the 'Kynggeswysshe'.⁵ Saint Mary Marsh ('Seintemarycroft') or North Marsh⁶ lay on the north side of the town. It is impossible to locate many of the street names mentioned in various descriptions, such as 'Denestrete',⁷ 'Schiezstreet',⁸ 'Potepiriestrete'.⁹ The district called 'Le Haltone' occupied the north-east corner of the town, in which the Augustinian Friary now stands, as appears by a grant of 1378 which gave the friars this land in exchange for their place on the east of the town; even when it was given to them in 1364, this latter was already being subjected to devastations by the sea.¹⁰ Originally the present Mermaid Street, called Middle Street, must have led straight through to the Market Place and Butchery and on to the east wall, while in all probability the line of Conduit Hill and East Street was continued to the Tower at the south-east corner. In 1348 a grant was made to the parson of Rye Church 'of a place called "Courton", where the pleas affecting the town are now held, adjoining the churchyard of his church and of ancient time ordained there for a dwelling of the parsons of that church, with the exception of 200 ft. in length and 43 ft. in breadth whereon a house can be built in which future pleas pertaining to the king can be pleaded and the con-

gregation of faithful men for such pleas and other business affecting the commonalty of the town can be made, to remain to the commonalty in perpetuity'.¹¹ This reserved land obviously includes the site of the old Court Hall, replaced in 1742 by the present Town Hall.

The loss of Normandy in 1204 necessitated putting the southern coast in a state of defence, and with this object Henry III started negotiations as early as 1226 for the removal of the dangerous anomaly of the foreign Fécamp lordship over Rye and Winchelsea. In the papal mandate to the abbot¹² in support of this object, proposing an exchange of property, it was stated that the King of England wished to build a castle at Rye; and in 1249 Peter of Savoy was allotted certain issues of land to fortify first Hastings and then Rye.¹³ The castle became known as Ypres Tower only after its grant to John de Ypres in 1431.¹⁴ For three-quarters of a century after its construction Rye's defences were sufficiently maintained by its fleet, but the more pressing danger at the opening of the Hundred Years' War necessitated further measures. In 1339 the French attacked the town and burned 52 houses and a mill, and the devastations of the sea had about the same time destroyed 18 more on the east side of the town.¹⁵ From 1329¹⁶ onwards the mayor and commonalty received successive grants of murage to enable them to contend with their two enemies; for, as the petition preceding the grant of 1348¹⁷ states, 'whereas their town is surrounded on all sides by the sea a great part of the town has been consumed by the sea and in other ways, and the total destruction of the town is feared unless the same be speedily strengthened, especially since the town is situated in a place where the enemies' galleys come more frequently than elsewhere on the coast'. The walls and gates of the town were therefore in all probability begun in the reign of Edward III. A charter to build a wall of stone and lime was granted in 1381,¹⁸ in view of the defenceless condition of the town after its sack by the French in 1377.¹⁹ Grants of the town and of the profits of the bailiwick had been made to the mayor and commonalty to aid them with the defences in 1372²⁰ and were renewed in 1382, on condition that they enclosed the town with a stone wall within three years, under penalty of £100. This they failed to do, but in view of their poverty half the fine was remitted.²¹ During the 15th century, as for instance in 1448 and 1457, guns were provided for the defence of the town;²² French attacks were feared in 1459, when the Portsmen had gone to Southampton to support the Earl of March (afterwards Edward IV), and cartloads of stones were collected on the town walls as missiles,²³ and again in 1474,²⁴ but the strength of the defences was not put to the proof.²⁵

Of the gateways of Rye the North or Land Gate

way, confusing Richard II with Richard I, assigned the charter to 1194.

¹⁹ T. Walsingham, *Hist.* i, 340; Vidler, *op. cit.* 27.

²⁰ *Cal. Close*, 1369-74, p. 406. See also *Anc. Pet.* no. 4257. Town's petition only about half granted in 1377.

²¹ *Plac. in Canc.* 12, no. 21.

²² *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* v, 490, 492.

²³ *Ibid.* 493.

²⁴ *Ibid.* 494.

²⁵ The alleged burning of Rye in 1448-9 is unsupported by evidence: Vidler, *op. cit.* 34.

¹ Cf. Holloway, *Hist. of Rye*, 285; L. A. Vidler, *New Hist. of Rye*, 9.

² Kelly, *Directory*.

³ Cf. Holloway, 455 ff. for details of construction of roads and railway.

⁴ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* v, 510 (39 *Edw.* III).

⁵ Cf. *ibid.* (grant, 37 *Edw.* III).

⁶ Cf. *Cal. Pat.* 1232-47, 503.

⁷ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* v, 505 (temp. *Edw.* I).

⁸ *Ibid.* 508 (6 *Edw.* III).

⁹ *Ibid.* 507 (17 *Edw.* II).

¹⁰ *Cal. Pat.* 1361-4, p. 440.

¹¹ *Ibid.* 1348-50, p. 98.

¹² *Cal. Pap. L.* i, 111.

¹³ *Cal. Pat.* 1247-58, p. 50.

¹⁴ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* v, 514. The statement constantly made that it was built by William de Ypres in Stephen's reign has no foundation.

¹⁵ Knighton, *Chron.* (Rolls Ser.), ii, 9; *Mins. Accts. bdle.* 1028, no. 11. Before the burning the rents collected by the bailiff were worth £10, but in 1341 they were not worth 40s.: L.T.R. Memo. R. 15 *Edw.* III, Trin.

¹⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1327-30, p. 403.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* 1348-50, p. 93.

¹⁸ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* v, 496. Hollo-



RYE: THE AUSTIN FRIARY, c. 1785
(From a drawing by Grimm in the Burrell Collections)





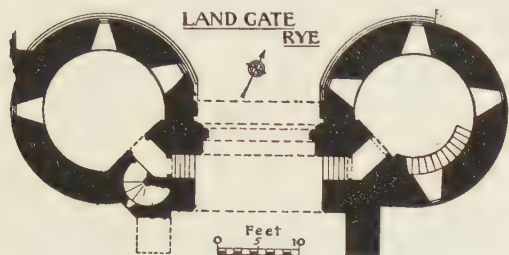
RYE: THE YPRES TOWER



RYE: THE LAND GATE

is the only survival. It was planned as two round towers or bastions flanking the actual gateway. Of its three stories the lower two are certainly of c. 1340; the top story with its greater use of brown ironstone and difference in details of windows, &c., may be accepted as being part of the repairs of c. 1380-5, at which time the towers were possibly heightened.

The walls are of rubble; the parapets have disappeared, but the string-course and machicolations on the north front still exist with their moulded corbels. The gateway has on the north front an entrance with



chamfered jambs and pointed arch; this was closed by the portcullis, the grooves for which still remain in the reveals. Above the haunches of the arch are two small bull's-eye piercings. The inner archway, that held the oak gates, is narrower and has jambs and a four-centred head of two chamfered orders, perhaps part of the later 14th-century repairs. Two of the hinge hooks are still in position. The rear arch of this entrance and the inner or south arch are both elliptical. In the reveals of the inner archway are pointed doorways into the side-towers with steps leading up through them. In the soffits of the doorways are small vertical flues ascending right up in the thickness of the wall, probably for defensive uses. The inner archway was flanked by south buttresses but the western of these has been removed.

The round towers have moulded plinths: their floors, roofs, and parapets have disappeared. A doorway, now blocked, was cut through the plinth on the north side of the west tower, probably in the 17th or 18th century. There is a stair-vice on the south-east of the west tower: it rises above the main walls in octagonal form as a watch-tower. A later stone staircase around the south side of the drum of the east tower now rises to the upper story of the gateway. All three stories were lighted by small rectangular loops; there were three each to the ground and first floors of the west tower and four to the east tower, all with ashlar dressings to the inner splays and segmental-pointed rear-arches: the windows are irregularly spaced. In the third story, however, they are evenly spaced, seven in the east and five in the west tower: these have rough rubble splays and flat rear lintels, obviously later than those below: much brown ironstone appears in their external dressings.

The chamber above the gateway has two small trefoiled windows in each wall, front and back. The north wall slightly overhangs the gateway below and retains traces of corbelling. In the side walls are doorways, with chamfered jambs and shouldered lintels, that opened into the two towers. Probably another

opened into the stair-vice but it is now bricked up. The clock works are now housed in this chamber and there is a dial (of 1862) on the east and west faces. The floor and roof of the third story have disappeared (as in the towers). It has a window in the middle of the north wall with a trefoiled-ogee head and a similar window appears on the west half of the south wall, the corresponding position in the east half being occupied by a fireplace. At the east end is a pointed doorway to a garde-robe in the south-east buttress: this has a loop-light in its east side. The doorway from the chamber to the west tower has a shouldered lintel; the rear-arch is of later brick: the other, to the east tower, has a four-centred arch but it may have been restored. There is a modern-looking doorway, with a brick arch, to the stair-vice.

The west tower appears to have had a cellar below it. The east tower is littered with debris and no evidence has been discovered that it went down as low as the other or had any internal means of communication with it other than by the chambers above the gateway. There are traces of a medieval building of rectangular plan projecting northwards to the north-west of the west tower. The existing wall, facing east, is of similar rubble to that of the towers and has in it two blocked loop-lights and, above them, a blocked trefoiled ogee-headed light.

Of the town wall there are still some remains standing, behind Cinque Ports Street. The stretch west of the Land Gate up to Conduit Hill, approximately 100 yards, is said to have been destroyed in 1763. The next stretch, west of Conduit Hill, approximately 100 yards, stands mostly free, and after a gap of 160 yards it reappears for about 25 yards as the back wall of yards belonging to small houses in the street. At the bend southwards lining with Wish Ward a few short lengths have been exposed in recent years, and a part of the building no. 54 Mint Chambers (mentioned below) is built on the wall. The Strand Gate, at the end of Mermaid Street, was destroyed partly in 1766 and finally about 1820, the material being used for repairing the churchyard walls,¹ but a shield bearing the arms of the Ports has been preserved from it and reset on the walls of a house at the corner of Mermaid Street. No trace remains of the Postern Gate at the foot of Conduit Hill.

The Ypres Tower² is of square plan with three-quarter-round towers at the angles, the north-eastern of which contains a stone stair-vice. The walls, about 40 ft. high, are built of stone rubble and the dressings include some brown ironstone. It is of three stories. Except for the remains of corbels of the former machicolations in the west front, the parapets have disappeared and the tiled roof has been altered from the flat to a pyramidal form. The basement has a pointed doorway in the west wall, probably in the original position but now of modern stonework. In the south wall is a restored window with brick reveals, and there are traces of a former east window. The stair in the north-east turret rose from this floor but the doorway in the east wall is half walled up: in the north wall is a recess for access to the doorway.

The ground floor is entered by a 16th- or 17th-century square-headed doorway in the north-east turret: it has an old wood frame, and leads to an original

¹ Vidler, *New Hist. of Rye*, 104, 117.

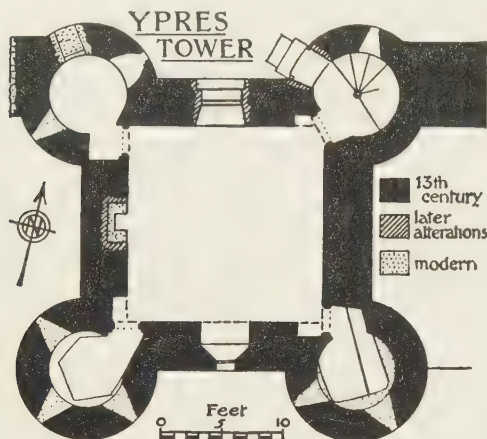
² The Tower was in private hands from 1431, when it was granted to John de

Ypres, until 1518, when the corporation bought it. (For details see Vidler, *op. cit.*) It was used as a prison until about 1825,

but has now been scheduled as an ancient monument.

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inner pointed doorway splayed across the north-east angle; in this is an ancient nail-studded door with a small shutter and grid and a massive oak lock. The south window is an original loop-light with iron-stone sill and lintel and repaired jambs. The northern, with

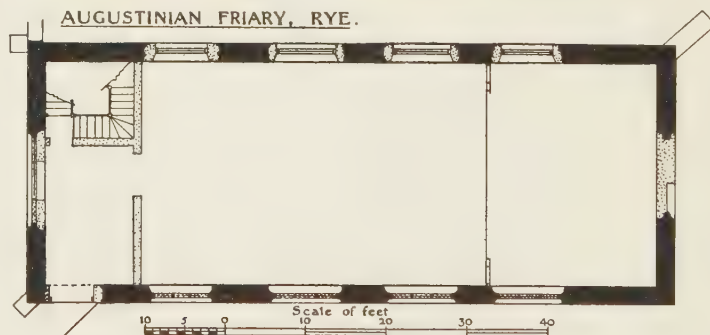


a modern head, is probably a later (15th- or 16th-century) enlargement. It is fitted with double iron grilles. In the west wall is a fire-place with a segmental arch: it is only 2 ft. 9 in. high, showing that the floor has been raised. The doorways to the other angle-turrets have pointed heads and are each set flush with a side wall, the contiguous side wall in each angle being recessed for access to it; these recesses have segmental half-arches.

Generally the chambers in the turrets had three loop-lights each, now mostly blocked or altered. One light in the north-west turret was altered to a modern doorway but it has now been walled up. The south-west turret is lined with oak boarding, much cut with prisoners' inscriptions. The door to the south-east turret is of oak battens, nail-studded, and fitted with a grille or peep-hole: the floor is a foot below that of the main chamber, which has been renewed and has a grille where was a former trap-door to the basement. The second story is entered from the stair-vice by an original pointed doorway fitted with a heavy nail-studded door. The turret has a north loop fitted with iron grilles. The original south window of the main chamber is of two rectangular lights with square reveals inside recessed nearly to the floor. The northern is an altered wider single light; it also was recessed inside below the sill but this was filled in later. The window has double grilles. A later window inserted in the south end of the west wall is now blocked. In the east wall was a 6 ft. fire-place, *c.* 1600, with an oak lintel and a raised hearth with an oak curb: it was later filled in with a smaller brick fire-place. The doorways to the turrets resemble those of the room below. The western turret-chambers have been enlarged slightly by being roughly cut away to square plans instead of circular. Each of the chambers had three windows; one in the south-east turret has been converted into a doorway opening on to the flat roof of the modern addition east

of the tower. The floor of the main chamber is partly of ancient oak boarding: in it is a ring for former prisoners' fetters, and a chequer-board has been scored in the floor. The steps on the north-east turret up to the roof are now sealed by a wall five steps above second-floor level. A great buttress was built against the east side of the turret and in it is a small irregular chamber, probably a garde-robe, entered by a pointed doorway from the stairway.

The town of Rye, situated on its *DESCRIPTION* hill and standing up well above the neighbouring country, is seen from most points of view as a picturesque pile of buildings, rising roof above roof up the hill-side, to be crowned by the ancient church. The first impression obtained from its aspect below is that it is a town of red brick and tile, but on entering its narrow streets it is seen that, in spite of many alterations, much of the ancient timber framing of the medieval and Jacobean buildings is still preserved in the external walls, and very much more is found in the interiors. In this survey some six early medieval cellars, antedating the destruction of 1377, are mentioned and there are doubtless other similar survivals unrecorded. Such buildings above ground as might have survived total destruction would have been those with solid walls of stone, such as the parish church and religious establishments like the Friary of the Sack. Practically all the domestic buildings were apparently of timber. In no case can it be said that any of the houses existing to-day were erected before 1377, *i.e.* survived the fire. In fact a decade or two appears to have elapsed before extensive rebuilding began. It is said¹ that, in order to reduce the danger from fire, the rebuilding of houses side by side was forbidden; so that in most cases where the houses can be identified as being of 15th-century origin they are



PLAN OF THE CHAPEL OF AUSTIN FRIARS

found to be well spaced one from the other. With the growth of the population, however, in the limited area within the walls, the intervening courts and gardens began to be filled in, as early as the late 16th century, by new dwellings and shops. To-day, except for occasional narrow passage-ways, there are few voids to be found on the street fronts.

All that remains of the Austin Friary of *c.* 1380 is a chapel on the east side of Conduit Hill, now of two stories and used as a Parish Room. The floor was inserted probably soon after the Suppression of 1538. The priory buildings that adjoined the north side of the chapel have long since disappeared. There are remains of the original 14th-century windows in three walls. The east window, only visible outside, retains

¹ *Ex inf.* Mr. L. A. Vidler.

a part of its south jamb, a fragment of tracery and half of the arch with a hood-mould. The west window is blocked with brickwork in which a smaller window is inserted, but its moulded jambs, arch, and hood-mould are complete. In the south wall are four windows of three trefoiled ogee-headed lights and leaf tracery. The jambs are moulded, but the western differs a little from the others. The mullions have moulded bases. There is little doubt that some if not all the material was transferred from the 1364 building on the former site on the east cliff; this would account for slight differences in detail. All the windows are filled in and the inserted floor cuts across them so that their lower parts are seen as recesses in the lower chamber. There is a modern west doorway to the lower story and another at the west end of the south wall, reached by a flight of stone steps, to the upper story. Inside is a modern staircase. The walls are of rubble with freestone dressings: at the south-west angle is a low diagonal buttress, and a square buttress at the north-west. In the north wall is a range of four modern windows to each story. The roof was renewed in 1905 and the gable-heads were heightened. A square-headed window of two elliptically arched lights in the east gable (now blocked) is probably a post-Suppression insertion of the 16th century. Preserved in the building is an oak Tudor doorway and an angle-post and bracket from an early sixteenth-century house that occupied the site of Lloyd's Bank in West Street.

The other and earlier Order of Friars in Rye was the minor order of the Friars *de Penitentia* or Friars of the Sack. The Order came to England c. 1257, when they founded a house in London.¹ In 1263 they were granted permission to dwell in Rye, and the small surviving fragment of their buildings is now known as the 'Old Stone House', on the south side of Church Square. The Order seems to have continued in Rye until its suppression in 1307;² after which the buildings were put to secular uses. The existing house was

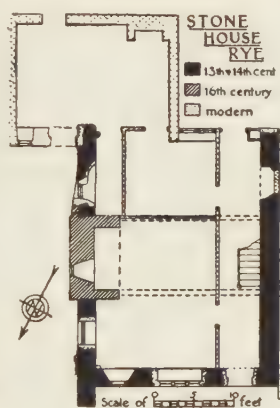
apparently the north-west wing of a larger structure of c. 1265; probably the chapel and other buildings lay to the south of it. The stone buildings farther west called the 'Store House' may have been part of the Friary originally, although the doorways and cellar do not appear to be earlier than the 14th century.

The walls of 'Stone House' are of rubble: the north end facing the street is gabled and has a buttress at the north-east angle. The lower story on this front has a pointed doorway and a triplet of lancet windows, all of modern stonework. East of the latter is an ancient rectangular window with a chamfered segmental rear-arch perhaps of the 14th century, when an upper floor was probably inserted. Above these windows is a partly ancient moulded string-course which drops below the sill of the upper two-light window, of which the jambs and arch are of the 13th century, as is the pointed rear-arch which retains the remains of a

hood mould, but the mullion and tracery are entirely modern. The lower story of the east wall is of stone rubble with modern windows: it is doubtful if this wall was originally an external one: near the front is a rough surface suggesting that a wall extending to the east abutted it and there are remains of the dressings of a former window in the now-vanished wall. The upper story is of timber-framing and brick infilling. In the middle of the wall is a slight projection for the later fire-place in which is a small rectangular light. The stack above this is of 16th-century brick. The west wall, of stone, adjoins a modern building, but in it near the south end is a 13th-century pointed doorway with a segmental-pointed rear-arch on the east face, and higher in the wall is the threshold of another doorway. The back wall is a thin one of timber covered with tile hanging and is gabled. The lower story inside is divided into three bays by old plain ceiling-beams: below the northern has been inserted a 16th-century moulded beam. The north and larger room has exposed ancient ceiling-joists and a fire-place 7½ ft. wide with brick and stone jambs and a chamfered oak lintel with a socket for a former crane or jack. The roof is in three bays of about 8 ft. each and is now partly open to the second story. It is of late-14th-century construction with heavy chamfered tie-beams, king-posts with four-way struts below a central purlin, and wide flat collar-beams. The south end of the roof has been altered. The partition below the northern intermediate truss has some ancient daub infilling.

The 'Store House', restored 1898, is built of stone rubble and has a gabled north front. In it is a blocked four-centred doorway with wave-moulded jambs of late-14th-century date. The gable-head is timber-framed. The front room on the ground floor has a heavy ceiling-beam, but the interior is otherwise modernized. Below the house is a stone cellar, 16 ft. wide and divided into five 6-ft. bays by hollow-chamfered stone ribs. It is barrel-vaulted and the arches are slightly pointed. It is probably of the 14th century. The entrance is by a four-centred doorway in the north wall.

There are several other medieval buildings in Church Square. The house east of Stone House is modern, but next is a series of buildings with jettied upper stories and of various dates. Nearly all the front walls of the lower stories have been rebuilt. The upper stories vary in appearance. No. 19, probably of the 16th or 17th century, has a stucco face in imitation masonry. No. 20 next east shows closely set studding and a curved bracket and may be of the 15th century. Both have tiled roofs and were possibly one building originally. Nos. 21 and 22 were evidently one building, probably of the 17th century: the upper story is tile-hung and is supported on iron posts. No. 24 is a repaired house of timber-framing of the 16th century or possibly earlier; it is gabled on its west side and has the eaves in front. No. 25 is gabled on the front, with a slight overhang on the projecting ends of floor joists: some of the posts in the lower story are original, with mortices for former brackets: the window is modern but has a re-used lintel carved with quatrefoil panels. Inside, the house has ancient open-timbered ceilings and the front room a wide fire-place with an embattled bressummer of the early 16th century. Nos. 26 and 27 although much altered externally were probably part



¹ V.C.H. London, ii, 513.

² Vidler, op. cit. 17; Dugdale, *Mon. Angl.* vi, 1607.

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of one building. No. 27 seems to have been the 'hall-place': it has a 15th-century roof of the king-post and central purlin type and on its west wall, 6 ft. above the floor, is a moulded and embattled beam. The east half of No. 26 was probably one of the wings. Both houses have open-timbered ceilings with moulded beams, and wide fire-places with moulded arched bressummers. The west half of no. 26 is a 16th-century addition and has an overhanging upper story on three curved brackets. A window in the west side of the 15th-century part was rendered useless by this addition. Next east was the Jolly Sailors Inn, now a private house and much altered.

On the west side of the Square are two notable houses. That now numbered 7 and 8 was formerly the Custom House and before that was known as 'Grene Hall', the 16th-century home of the Wymond and Gaymer families. Queen Elizabeth is said to have been received at the house when she visited Rye in 1573. The house is of the 15th century, but the front wall is covered with 'mathematical tiles' in imitation of brickwork and has an 18th-century doorway, and sash windows. The basement wall, however, standing about 2 ft. high, is of ancient stone rubble, and is evidently of the date of the medieval cellar. The north end-wall of the house has a projecting chimney-stack, of brick, through which steps lead down to the cellar. The house had a middle hall of one 16-ft. bay and apparently always of two stories, flanked by a north solar wing and south buttery wing. Both the middle block and the north wing show the original wide flat ceiling joists and the wing has also the diagonal beam or dragon piece that helped to support the formerly projecting upper story. A screens-passage south of the hall place is divided from it by a partition below a hollow-moulded beam. In the south side-wall of the passage are two arched doorways that opened into the buttery, &c. Above them is a moulded ceiling-beam. The hall has a 7 ft. wide stone fire-place of early-16th-century date. Above it are set seven bays of early-16th-century linen-fold panelling. The room in the north wing is lined with Elizabethan panelling and has a stone fire-place of the same period, with a panelled overmantel and flanked by fluted pilasters that carry fluted consoles below the moulded and dentilled cornice of the room. The roof of the middle hall is of the usual 15th-century king-post type with very wide flat collar beams and rafters. Behind the original screens-passage is a good Elizabethan staircase of oak with 2½ in. turned balusters, and square newels with ball-heads. An interesting feature is a dog-gate at the foot of the stair made of latticed oak battens. The next house to the south was the former buttery-wing; it has a moulded oak doorway in the back-wall but the ceilings are plastered.

The medieval stone cellar under the hall and north wing is 16 ft. 10 in. wide and about 9½ ft. high and is divided from north to south by chamfered stone ribs into six bays of approximately 5 ft. each. The vault is elliptical and has stone webbing except for a foot or two at the springing level (about 5 ft. above the floor) which is of brickwork, its vaults having been perhaps lowered in the 16th century. It is entered by a north stairway through the chimney-stack and has near the top of the stair a doorway with a three-centred arch. In the west wall is a blocked doorway that must have communicated with another cellar, and in the north

wall, adjacent, is a four-centred niche with rebated jambs. The east side of the vault has been pierced by two sloping flues, of brick plastered, that led up to small areas in the street, for ventilation.

The house at the south end of the west side, recently renovated, is now known as 'St. Anthony of Padua'. The east front is of closely set studding and has a jettied upper story as well as at the south end. The upper story has a moulded bressummer carried on curved brackets. The house is of the 15th century and had a hall with the usual wings, but the overhang suggests that the whole building has always been of two stories. All the ground-floor rooms have open-timbered ceilings and in the southernmost is a diagonal beam to support the overhang. The joists are trimmed in the north-east corner for a former staircase. The entrance-doorway, which has moulded posts and an arched head with foliage spandrels, opens into a passage between the middle and north chambers, an original four-centred doorway opening into the latter. The middle room has a large south fire-place of the 16th century with a four-centred arched oak lintel with conventional carved foliage in the spandrels; the room above it has a stone Tudor fire-place; and the chimney-stack of the north wing is of thin bricks. In the back wall of this wing is an original four-light window and some combed plaster. The hall roof of a 15-ft. bay has a double-chamfered tie-beam with curved braces below it and a strutted king-post.

None of the houses on the north side of the Square appears to be earlier than the 18th century. The site of one of these is allocated by Mr. Leopold Vidler as that of the former vicarage.

The old Flushing Inn,¹ at the east corner of Pump Street, facing Market Square, dates from the 15th century above ground but has a much earlier vaulted stone cellar below it. This cellar, about 14 ft. wide and 21 ft. long, is barrel-vaulted and divided into four bays by hollow-chamfered stone ribs forming semi-circular arches. In the northernmost bay are steps up to the street, spanned by two round arches. The height to the crown of the vault is 10 ft. There is little doubt that the cellar is of the 13th century. There is also a cellar to the west of this under what was the wing of the inn: it has stone walls, but the vault, if it ever existed, has been destroyed.

The house had a hall of two bays of about 9½ ft. each between two wings. The hall may have been of two stories or had a floor inserted in it early in its existence to tally with the wings, which had jettied upper stories. The hall and part of the west wing are now part of a private hotel. The remainder of the west wing, flanking Pump Street, is a business office, and the east wing is a private house. The north front was entirely plastered until recent years when the upper story of the hall was stripped to reveal the closely set studding and two small windows, now blocked, on either side of a larger modern window. The dentilled eaves-cornice is of the 18th century. The lower story is of 18th-century brickwork and may be the 'under-building' of a projecting upper story. The west wing is jettied on its west side on curved brackets, including one set diagonally at the north-west angle on an original post that has a moulded capping.

The ground-floor ceiling in the hall has moulded main beams crossing each other, of 15th-century contour; the moulded rafters are trimmed in the south-

¹ The inn and cellars are described by the late Harold Sands in the *Suss. Arch. Coll.* 1 (1907).



RYE: CHURCH SQUARE



RYE: THE MERMAID INN

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the original 15th-century framing of a king-post roof—chiefly in the west wing.

The next house to the north, now tea-rooms, is a smaller building of which the east front is modernized, but, inside, the middle part has 15th-century moulded ceiling-beams and a 16th-century wide fire-place. Farther north, no. 5 has a modern brick front and south side-wall, but retains the original 15th-century roof of two bays with strutted king-posts, and some of the old wall-framing is visible in the upper story. The house, no. 6, next north may have been part of the same building from the appearance of the roof. It is fronted with bricks and plaster and has an 18th-century parapet.

No. 7 next north is of the 17th century, or possibly earlier. In the shop are old stop-chamfered ceiling-beams. The 'Peacock Lounge' next north was probably part of the same building. Some old framing with sloping struts is exposed in the south side-wall of the upper story inside, otherwise there is little to date it. The front is jettied and covered with tile-hanging. The 'Peacock Tea Rooms' is probably a much earlier building. Ancient beams have mortices for the former studs of the partitions: one for a former north side-passage, now included in the shop, has mortices for a three-light window with diamond-shaped mullions. Below the shop are cellars with ancient rubble walls.

Most of the houses in the High Street, or former 'Longer Street', have been rebuilt or completely altered. The most striking externally is the former Peacock's School,¹ now a club house, opposite Lion Street. It has a fine brick elevation of 1636 of five bays divided by high pilasters standing on high pedestals and having chamfered bases of stone and moulded capitals of bricks, and a brick entablature. The pilasters are carried up two stories and above the entablature is an attic story with three pedimented dormers.

The George Hotel opposite is largely of about 1600 in its eastern half, heightened in the 18th century, and has some fine timbers and a large fire-place inside. The east side towards Lion Street has a jettied upper story. The north front was also jettied, but it has been underbuilt and the upper part has been faced with 'mathematical tiles'. The rear extension of the hotel, facing Lion Street, is an earlier building of two stories, the upper jettied and tile-hung. The lower story and south gateway have moulded ceiling-beams of the 15th century, but the upper story has been reconstructed. The west half of the hotel with the large 'Assembly Room' on the first floor was added in 1818.

A small building farther east, no. 103, has a jettied upper story of close timber-framing and may be of the 16th century or earlier. The next house west of it, also with a jettied upper story, now plastered, was probably part of the same building originally.

Next west are two buildings of which the western, Gill's House, has the remains of a 15th-century roof with strutted king-posts, &c. The front is plastered and bears a tablet that Gill's, clockmakers 1680 to 1791, occupied the premises. There is a cellar with old stone walls.

No. 24 is now called Holloway House after William Holloway, the local historian who lived here. The south front is of modern yellow brick and gives no indication of antiquity, but the interior proves it to be an early-

16th-century house, once timber-framed. The plan of the house appears to have been originally L-shaped. Soon afterwards, the plan was developed by another wing and a back block to surround a small courtyard. This courtyard was subsequently covered in and modern additions were built to the north-west. A fair amount of the original timber-framing, with curved struts, some ogee-shaped, is seen in the inner walls. The house has five stone fire-places of the Tudor period. All have spandrels carved with shields and foliage, and some have a frieze with Tudor emblems—the rose, portcullis, and pomegranate.² Three of the rooms have Elizabethan and later panelling. The cellars below the west half of the house are probably 13th-century. There are two chambers. The larger, at the back, is 16 ft. wide and of four 5½-ft. bays with chamfered semicircular stone ribs and rubble webbing. South of this is a stairway about 5 ft. wide that led up to the street front of the building, and next west of the stairway is another small chamber about 9 ft. by 5½ ft. The street entrance has been closed and access to the cellar is now by a trap-door in the east front room and some winding steps leading to the old stair.³

The street is continued westwards in a double bend and is here known as the Mint, although the buildings are numbered in sequence with those of High Street. No. 35 on the north side is a double shop with a brick front, but has an early-16th-century moulded beam inside the east half. No. 36 also has a modern brick front, but the beams inside suggest a 15th- or early-16th-century origin. It has a dragon beam for the formerly jettied upper story. No. 40 is another double-fronted shop with tile-hanging to the upper story. Inside both shops are moulded ceiling-beams with foliage-stops, close timbering in the walls, and an arched doorway and moulded beam in the dividing wall. The back wing of the building has some external close-set timbering in the upper story towards a narrow alley, 'Needles', leading from the Mint to Cinque Ports Street. A great central chimney-stack has fire-places with oak lintels. In the east half is a 17th-century staircase with symmetrically turned balusters, and some reset panelling of the 16th century, with doors hung with cock's head hinges.

No. 43 is probably an early-15th-century building. The lower story has been underbuilt with brick, but the upper has original timber-framing including two quatrefoiled diamond-shaped panels, partly restored, and an old bressummer on the ends of slightly projecting floor-joists. The large middle window, now modern, was formerly a projecting oriel; the sill is in place and mortices show where the brackets existed. It is flanked by ancient three-light windows with higher sills and moulded mullions. The front room has old posts and a 15th-century moulded beam in the east wall. The other beams are chamfered. The back part also shows old framing. The central chimney-stack has 9-ft. fire-places, back to back, of very small bricks. The narrow gabled building next east was probably a part of the same house. It is plastered above a modern shop-front and has a moulded barge board to the gable.

'The Old House' is another 15th-century building retaining the closely set studding to the jettied upper story of the south-east front. The moulded bressummer

¹ Fully described in *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxxviii, 199–209.

² It has been suggested that the fire-

places came from Camber Castle, but there is no evidence in support of this idea.

³ Holloway does not mention the cellars in his description of the house.

has been partly cut back and the lower story restored. The lower rooms have original wide flat ceiling-joists. The roof retains part of the old king-post construction.

A house opposite is probably an early-16th-century building and has ancient timber-framing in the upper story on a moulded bressummer, but the lower story has been underbuilt with brick. The front room has moulded ceiling-beams and joists and old framing in the back wall. In the north-east side wall is a 7-ft. fire-place with a flat-arched oak lintel and there is a smaller one in the room above. The roof has old flat collar-beams. 'Mint Chambers', the southernmost building on the west side, is of triangular plan, being built partly on the medieval town-wall where it converges on the Mint. The house has a roof of c. 1540 with wind-braced purlins. The east front, to the street, is plastered and has a panel with the letters N P I and date 1728. The ground-floor has bow-windows of that period. The two gable heads project on curved brackets and have 17th-century barge-boards.

West Street branches south of the High Street to meet the east end of Mermaid Street. On the west side of the street is a house of about 1500, now known as 'Thomas House' after a former resident, which retains much of its original framing. The east front is divided into three bays, of which the northernmost has early-16th-century projecting moulded windows to both stories, each of five lights. The framing between them has three square panels enclosing curved foils: these have been restored but are as described by Holloway.¹ The other bays have old timbers, but the doorway and windows are modern. The north room on the ground-floor has early moulded ceiling-beams. The central chimney-stack has large fire-places of thin bricks, with oak lintels.

Mermaid Street, rising steeply from the Strand eastwards, has several medieval buildings, the largest being the old Mermaid Inn, now a private hotel, and 'the Old Hospital'.

The Mermaid occupies a large area, about a small courtyard. It has an early vaulted stone cellar, but otherwise is probably not earlier than the late 15th century. Doubtless the first part built was the front or south range, which had a hall with flanking wings. The first addition was the west range towards 'Mermaid Yard', followed shortly by the east range, and finally the north wing; this closed the courtyard except for a narrow passage between its east end and the east wing, and this passage was subsequently occupied by a staircase. The range west of the gateway and 'Mermaid Yard'—at a lower level because of the fall in the ground—is of the 15th century. It may not have belonged originally to the inn.

The front has been more altered than other parts. It has, with the gateway, a jettied upper story and is of rather thin timbers. The south entrance of the large gateway has moulded posts and lintel. There is more evidence of age inside. In the hall is a ceiling-beam with mortices for the former screens-partition. A longitudinal beam meets it with a masons' joint. Both beams and most of the small ceiling-joists are stop-moulded. The old back-wall has been removed, except for a post below the end of the screens-beam, and an 18th-century brick wall, the south wall of the internal courtyard, built out for communication between the wings. In both east and west walls is an arched doorway with foliage spandrels. The east door-

way has an old feather-battened door: in the west is linen-fold panelling adapted. North of the west room (the Office) is a staircase, both walls of which are of heavy studding. The large gateway next west has an open-timbered ceiling; its east wall has some old studding and an ancient window of three lights with moulded mullions and diamond quarry glazing. The upper story of this block is crossed by two trussed partitions with curved braces, &c., which coincide with the hall below, and have ancient combing in the plaster-work. The west wing has a 'Lounge' and east of it a corridor skirting the inner courtyard. The corridor is old, as its east beam has the mortices for a five-light window that was destroyed when the hall was widened. The lounge has moulded cross-beams and chamfered ceiling-joists: the south wall is of heavy close studding. At the north end is a stone Tudor fire-place; the spandrels have shields and interlacing tendril ornament: the frieze is carved with nine panels, a lozenge containing a marigold alternating with a circle containing a triple rose. The external (west) wall is of close studded framing on stone foundations and has a jettied upper story with a moulded bressummer. The windows to the lower story are mostly original and project slightly. The windows of the upper story are mostly modern, although some are in the old openings. This story has a single long chamber with a stone Tudor fire-place. The roof above this wing is original and is of three bays with wind-braced purlins and highly curved small collar-beams. The east wing contains a long dining-room, formerly two rooms, each with its own stone fire-place in the east wall. The southern fire-place, 6½ ft. wide, has moulded jambs and straight-sided arch with shield-and-foliage spandrels: the head is panelled, diamonds enclosing conventional foliage alternating with circles containing single roses. The north fire-place, 5½ ft. wide, is plainer. The rooms above have the remains of similar fire-places and the middle room has an ancient east window of three lights.

Both the east side and the north end show old close-set framing, partly restored. The north gable-head is weather-boarded. The two east chimney-stacks are square and of old thin bricks. The north-west wing is entered by a moulded doorway at the north end of the west corridor. The ground-floor room has a huge east fire-place, 12½ ft. wide and 4¼ ft. deep. The jambs are of stone; the oak lintel, 16 in. high, is arched; the back is of ancient brick and has recesses for lockers. The great chimney, gathered in as it rises, has had partition walls inserted inside it to reduce the flue in the lower part, and off these higher up are recesses which are said to have formed smugglers' hiding-places in the 18th century. It carries an old round shaft. The room has heavy chamfered cross-beams on heavy plain wall-posts: the ceiling-joists are chamfered and laid flat. There is heavy framing in the south wall, and, partly projecting in the south-west corner, is a closed-in winding staircase next to the chimney-stack. The north window is of six lights with moulded mullions, some of them renewed. The north wall is of close timbering, some of it renewed. The jettied upper story has a plain bressummer and is supported on the projecting floor-beams and one remaining curved bracket.

The walls of the central courtyard are of 18th- and 19th-century brick and tile-hanging. The upper windows on the east and north sides seem to be fairly ancient. The range west of the gateway and 'Mermaid

¹ *Antiquarian Rambles through Rye*, 1863.

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Yard' is of old framing and has a jettied upper story on the south front with a moulded bressummer of 15th-century type. The windows are modern. The east side of it is of close studding. The part north of the gateway is of two 12-ft. bays and a half-bay: it is probably a little later than the front bay. Inside, the south bay, in line with the gateway, has heavy chamfered cross-beams and wide flat chamfered joists. The back-wall has been replaced by an encased steel joist. The beams on the north part are square and the joists rather rough. The main posts in the walls have shaped heads, and there is old studding visible in the upper story. There are a number of fittings which if not indigenous have been in the building a considerable time. The lounge has panels of early-16th-century linen-fold panelling divided by muntins with variously carved faces: one has the sacred monogram IHS and a cross. Above the panelling are two frieze panels, partly incomplete, carved with a man's head, cherubs, urns, and monsters. There is also some later and plainer linen-fold panelling here and in the dining-room. The present owner has introduced old furniture and several interesting pieces of carving. The stone cellar below the hall is barrel-vaulted: it may be as old as the 13th century. Like the others it is about 16 ft. wide and is divided by hollow-chamfered stone ribs into six small bays of about 2 ft. 8 in. each: on the south wall is an elliptical-headed doorway.

The 'Old Hospital' was so called, according to Holloway writing in 1847, because it was used as a hospital 'in the late war'. It was also known as 'Jeakes' House' as it was the residence of Samuel Jeakes, who in 1689 received it as part of the dowry of his wife, Elizabeth Hartshorn. It had become almost derelict in Holloway's time, but has been reconditioned and is now one of the most important monuments of the town. It is of 15th-century origin and of the usual type with a hall and wings, or at least a west wing. The site of the hall is only one bay of about 16 ft.; it may have extended eastwards formerly. At the top are three later projecting small gables carried on curved coving and brackets, one dated 1576. The wing behind the hall was added early in the 16th century, when also the Tudor fire-places were inserted. On the south front the west wing projects beyond the main wall of the hall (east half) but the entrance to the 'screens-passage' is really in this wing although set flush with the east half: the upper story of the wing overhangs it on a shaped bracket; the doorway has a moulded frame. The walls are timber-framed, but most of the timbers are modern repair, as are the windows. The eastern room, on the site of the hall, has a Tudor fire-place of stone. The ceiling-beams are stop-moulded. A moulded doorway west of the fire-place opens into the back wing. The upper floor has another Tudor fire-place with shield-and-foilage spandrels and small panels on the face. The back wing is of old timber-framing, partly weather-boarded, and has a projecting gable-head on a moulded bressummer above a square bay-window. The lower room has moulded ceiling-beams and 18th-century panelling. The roof has three bays of early 16th-century framing, with wind-braced purlins. The roof above the front block has a fine long attic chamber. The old tie-beams have been cut through and now form cantilevers to support the sides of the gablets. Under the house is a stone-walled cellar.

Next east of the house a small building of 18th-century brick now forms the servants' quarters of the

same residence. Below this is another early medieval cellar with a semicircular barrel vault of five 6-ft. bays divided by chamfered stone ribs.

A house opposite the Mermaid has a jettied upper story of fairly close studding. The lower story had been underbuilt with brick, but has been set back again and repaired with old timbers from elsewhere. The lower room retains a 15th-century moulded wall-beam and the roof has 15th-century trusses with braced tie-beams, strutted king-posts, and braced central purlin. Original framing, including curved braces, shows in the walls. A fire-place and chimney-stack inserted in the east side are of the 17th century. At the back is a 16th-century wing which also shows old framing, but the roof of it has been altered.

A house farther west now called 'Robin Hill' is another 15th-century building retaining the original roof-construction of three 10- to 11-ft. bays with king-posts and central purlin. Although largely renovated, with the re-use of old timbers from elsewhere, much of the original framing remains and there is old combing on some of the plaster infilling.

The 'Oak House' at the corner of Trader's Passage is a late-15th-century building much disguised by brick and tile-hanging externally. The middle room marks a 15-ft. hall, with a moulded wall-beam on the north side and close studding and a moulded ceiling-beam and wide flat joists. In the east wall is a 9-ft. fire-place with a moulded four-centred arch of oak partly cut back: the back of the fire-place, of brick, has in it two tiny pressed terra-cotta panels, apparently of three human figures fleeing from the open mouth of a monster. The upper room has a smaller fire-place also with a moulded oak arch with foliage spandrels, and there is some original combing in the north wall. The two original wings have been altered. The south wing has two original wall-beams with mortices for former, lower, floors. The roof has been reconstructed and has side purlins and cambered collar-beams of mahogany with mortices for former joists. An extension beyond the original south wing is of the early 17th century and has heavy beams and joists and a wide fire-place of that period.

Opposite, on the west side of Trader's Passage, is a small cottage probably of the 16th century. It has ancient timber-framing, including carved struts, in the upper story.

Another building of interest on the south side of Mermaid Street is Jeakes' Storehouse of stone with a gable-head. A panel has the date 1689 and a horseshoe, but it is not very legible now. There are also several other 17th- and 18th-century houses.

Watchbell Street, running west from the south side of Church Square, has several houses of 16th-century or earlier date. No. 7, a small house on the north side, has a brick and tile-hung gabled front, but the ground and first floors both have moulded beams with carved leaf-stops of the 16th century, and show old framing in the side walls. The houses nos. 6 and 8 and 9 on either side also show signs of age although much altered externally. No. 10 is a three-storied house of brick and tile-hanging: it has a small shield on the front wall charged with a chevron between three crescents. On the south side a large plaster-fronted house, now the offices of the Rye Burial Board, has two re-used moulded beams of the 15th century on the ground-floor ceiling. Farther west a range of plaster-fronted houses, nos. 20, 20a, and 21, with jettied upper stories, suggest a 17th-

century origin; and a small house, no. 19, next west, has a jettied upper story of ancient timber-framing.

There are several buildings of the 17th and 18th centuries in King Street, north of the Land Gate, and a few in Tower Street and Cinque Ports Street can be ascribed to the 18th century.

The obscurity covering the early *BOROUGH* history of Rye is largely due to the foreign overlordship to which it was subjected. It is now generally accepted that Rye formed part of the ancient manor of Rameslie of which a grant was made by Cnut to the Abbot and Convent of Fécamp in Normandy sometime after 1017,¹ carrying out a promise made by Æthelred. This grant was confirmed by Edward the Confessor, William the Conqueror, and later Norman kings.²

In its account of Rameslie the Domesday Survey says: 'In the same manor is a new borough, and there are 64 burgesses returning 9 pounds all but 2 shillings.'³ From the analogy of other 'new boroughs' in Domesday this has been supposed to refer to a Norman settlement in Hastings;⁴ but the wording of the entry and the fact that it is immediately followed by a reference to 4 burgesses and 14 bordars 'in Hastings' makes this improbable, and it almost certainly refers to Rye. Presumably a settlement had been made by the abbey of Fécamp at the nameless port which, with the estate of 'Hramnesleagh' or 'Rameslege', had been bequeathed by a certain Wulwyn to her kinsman Æthelmar the Ealdorman, given by him to his foundation of Eynesham Abbey in 1005,⁵ and subsequently, as already mentioned, bestowed on Fécamp by Cnut.⁶

There are signs that Rye had acquired the status of a self-governing borough by the middle of the 12th century. Two reasons may be assigned for this development, namely, the distance of the lordship of Fécamp Abbey and the necessities of a trading and fishing community. Although the abbot had his bailiffs they might have difficulty in enforcing the payment of dues; it was therefore easier to commute them and to lay the responsibility for their collection on the men of Rye themselves. A charter of Henry, Abbot of Fécamp,⁷ apparently of about 1150, released to the men of Rye and their heirs 'ledtschet childwite feld'⁸ and the tax on the sale of houses, in return for the sum of 2½ marks yearly, payable from fixed rents in the town of Rye. It was further provided that if the rents were in default, the men in common should make the payment, those men present swearing on behalf of those who were absent. This important charter shows not only the commutation of dues essentially connected with villein status in a manorial community, but lays down the principle of corporate responsibility. Nor is this all. The profits of the town depended largely upon the proceeds of the fishing, and in these the abbot was to have a definite share, fixed according to the size of the boat, 2½ shares for a ship of 26 oars down to ½ share in a 'hecchere' of 8 oars; and as no one might engage in fishing from the town unless he

gave these shares, a form of common organization and supervision must be presupposed.⁹ Further proof of an early borough status is shown by the existence of a mint here in 1142.¹⁰ More important is the lost charter of Henry II to the towns of Rye and Winchelsea which gave them the privileges of Hastings and the Cinque Ports generally as to pleading and being impleaded. The confirmation charter of Richard I, dated at Messina 27 March 1191,¹¹ gave the men of the two towns freedom and quittance throughout the king's land this side the sea and beyond, from toll, lastage, tallage, passage, quayage, rivage, sponsage, and from all wreck and rachate (?salvage) and all customs and they were to have all treasure trove on sea and land and be free as to all their things and all their market as the king's free men and that no one should interfere with them or their property under penalty of £10; and that they be quit of shires and hundreds. For these liberties they were to find for the king's service two ships to make up the number of 20 ships due for service from Hastings.¹²

The proximity of the two towns of Rye and Winchelsea, the similarity of their interests, and the fact that they were both originally under the lordship of the abbey of Fécamp, caused them to be treated for administrative purposes as a unit. They made payments to the royal exchequer jointly;¹³ the charters of liberties of Henry II, Richard I, and John were granted to the two towns together, and writs were frequently addressed to them jointly, and they were for a long period farmed together. The separation seems to have become more definite at the end of the 13th century when the town of Winchelsea was moved to the hill of Higham. The prosperity of the two towns seems to have led to a fresh arrangement in 1201 regarding the services due to their overlord.¹⁴ About the same time the 'prudhommes' of Rye were appointed arbitrators in case of any dispute about the appointment of the master of the hospital of St. Bartholomew at Rye, of which later they became the patrons. The fair of St. Bartholomew belonged to the hospital, but its profits were to be shared with the abbey of Fécamp. It was provided, however, that the abbey should receive the toll of the whole town and port while the fair lasted; from which it would appear that the abbey did not usually receive that toll. The barons of Rye appended their seal to this document in token of their agreement with it,¹⁵ this being the first reference to a communal seal at Rye. This charter was confirmed shortly afterwards and the custom called 'aletal' was released by the abbot to the men of Rye for 120 marks.¹⁶

Immediately after the loss of Normandy John, in 1205, confirmed the liberties of Rye and Winchelsea, and in view of the expected French invasion in 1215 he appointed his officers to undertake their defence. In spite of these precautions Louis of France, during his invasion in 1216, captured first Winchelsea and then Rye.¹⁷ After their recapture the two towns were placed in charge of a Crown bailiff.

¹ *Engl. Hist. Rev.* xxxiii, 343.

² Round, *Cal. Doc. France*, 38.

³ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 391.

⁴ *Ibid.* 385.

⁵ *Cartul. of Eynesham* (Oxf. Hist. Soc.), i, 22, 26; ii, p. xcvi.

⁶ Æthelred's failure to execute the grant may have been due to negotiations with Eynesham.

⁷ Round, *op. cit.* 42; cf. *Suss. Arch. Coll.* iv, 37.

⁸ 'Ledtschet' is probably lathe scot, i.e. freedom from suit at the lathe court. Cf. *Ledh*, e.g. in *curia comitis coram le ledh* (1176): *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. on MSS. of Lord de L'Isle and Dudley*, i, 34, 35. 'Childwite' is fine paid on the birth of an illegitimate child. 'Feld' is unusual and possibly an error.

⁹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* iv, 37; cf. also *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 'Fisheries'.

¹⁰ W. J. Andrew, F.S.A., in *Suss.*

N. & Q. iii, no. 6.

¹¹ Burrows, *Cinque Ports*, 70. Compare the charter of Edward I granted to the Cinque Ports in 1278 (above, p. 37).

¹² *Cal. Chart.* 1300-26, pp. 219-20.

¹³ *Pipe R. Soc.* viii, 92; *N.S.* ix, 228.

¹⁴ *Cur. Reg. R.* ii, 34.

¹⁵ Round, *Cal. Doc. France*, no. 148.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* no. 149.

¹⁷ See *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 493-4; *Suss. N. & Q.* i, 33.

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Rye in 1243 was made a naval base for the king's galleys¹ which were then under the charge of William Beaufiz and other local magnates. At the same time the royal galleys at Romney and Sandwich were ordered to be sent there,² and subsequently two galleys were built at Rye.³

The truce with France having been settled in 1243, negotiations were opened in 1245 with the Abbot of Fécamp,⁴ and on 15 March 1247 it was declared that the safety of the realm required that the towns of Rye and Winchelsea 'which are called the nobler members of the Cinque Ports' should cease to be held by the abbot and monks of Fécamp, who were unable to fortify them without danger to the realm in the time of war.⁵ The king therefore by consent of the abbot revoked the gift of the said towns with their ports and advowsons and the fourth part of the marsh of Northmareys with the rent of 3*s.* 9*d.* received therefrom. In exchange he gave the abbot and monks the manors of Cheltenham and Slaughter and Hundred of Salmonsbury (co. Glos.) and the manor of Navenby (co. Linc.).⁶

The towns continued under the charge of a Crown bailiff until 1249, when they were farmed for a year to the barons of the two towns, at the rent of 130 marks for Winchelsea and 70 marks for Rye, on condition that the barons should repair and preserve the town against the sea and show justice to all complainants.⁷ The farm was continued to the barons on the same terms for two years longer.⁸ In 1252 the two towns were farmed to John de Burstowe for two years at the same rent⁹ and his tenure was subsequently continued on his undertaking to pay an extra 100*s.*,¹⁰ and in 1256 Walter de Winchelse, clerk, had the farm for six years at the increased rent of 220 marks.¹¹ The next farmer was Michael de Meynell in 1262, but in 1263, during the supremacy of the baronial party, John de la Hay was appointed to administer the towns and deliver the issues to the Constable of Dover Castle for the munitioning thereof. After the fall of de Montfort Edward, the king's son, was made Constable of Dover Castle and he in 1265 committed the two towns to Stephen de Pencester. As the country quieted down, the towns seem to have been again let to farm to the barons.

In 1275 Edward I granted to Queen Eleanor his mother the farm of the town and mills of Rye as part of her dower in exchange for the city of Bath.¹² The queen appointed her own bailiff,¹³ but the town seems to have remained in farm from her to the barons. After the death of the queen the bailiwick of Rye was committed to Robert Paulyn of Winchelsea in 1289¹⁴ during pleasure and with Winchelsea and Iham, the site of New Winchelsea, again in 1317.¹⁵

It is during Paulyn's term of office that we have the first mention of a mayor of Rye, Henry de Rackele witnessing an undated deed by that title; his name, however, occurs after that of the bailiff, which suggests that the office was new and priority as yet unsettled.¹⁶

The earliest mention we have of a mayor of Winchelsea is in 1292, and it is probable that the office was instituted in both towns when Winchelsea was refounded. As early as 1235, however, we have reference to William Beaufiz and Richard Wimund as jurats of Rye,¹⁷ but the reference to jurats need not indicate the existence of a mayor at this date.

In 1272 Matthew de Hastings, the bailiff, accounted for the issues of the manor and the sale of corn from the king's mills.¹⁸ From the next extant accounts, for 1307-13,¹⁹ however, the bailiff ceased to show the profits of the manor and only returned the fixed rents, the profits of the fishing shares, the levy of toll on ships and customs on merchandise, and the holding of the courts necessary for such duties. The bailiff, as the king's officer, had become of diminished importance and instead of being the first person addressed in the writs to the town he becomes the last, the style after 1299 being usually the mayor, barons, and bailiffs of Rye.²⁰ The office of bailiff eventually became the reward of a local magnate who had to take an oath to the mayor and commonalty and swear to observe the franchises of the town.²¹ The office continued until the death of Francis Young in 1704, after which the Corporation appear to have obtained a grant of the office and to have suppressed it.²²

During the early part of the 14th century the burgesses gradually acquired a number of rents of tenements in the town, mostly on the Strand or in the Market Place.

The borough accounts,²³ beginning in 1448, show revenues from tolls on fishing boats and customs duties on sales of merchandise. These usually appear under the heads of maltods of the fishers of Rye and poundage of the fishers of Saltcote, the collections of the great maltod box, and the rapiers' box, all of which were accounted for at four seasons of the year. The great maltod box received the duties on sales, as is seen by occasional entries of a maltod payment for sale of salt or wine, and the rapiers' box received those payments made by the fish-carriers taking the fish from the town to sell elsewhere. These profits together with rents, payments for taking up the freedom of the town, and fines for various offences provided a revenue of about £34 in 1450, which had risen to about £55 in 1480,²⁴ from which a multitude of expenses was defrayed, such as repair of buildings and fortifications, journeys taken by the mayor and jurats to assemblies of the Brodhull or on other business, payments to messengers, meals for state occasions and entertainment of distinguished visitors, wages of the town officers and members of parliament, and numerous other matters. Ordinary means were not always sufficient to meet extraordinary occasions and royal grants and self-imposed taxation were required to meet emergencies.

The need of walling the town in the 14th century led to royal grants of murage from 1329 onwards,²⁵

¹ *Cal. Close*, 1242-7, p. 45.

² *Ibid.* 176, 494.

³ *Ibid.* 1259-61, p. 75.

⁴ During the war with France the prior of Cogges (co. Oxon.) had charge of the land of Fécamp, but had to give an undertaking that no money should go abroad: *Cal. Fine R.* v, 193.

⁵ *Cal. Chart.* i (1226-57), 321.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Cal. Pat.* 1247-58, p. 39.

⁸ *Ibid.* 64.

⁹ *Ibid.* 133.

¹⁰ *Cal. Close*, 1253-4, p. 226.

¹¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1247-58, p. 477.

¹² *Ibid.* 1272-81, pp. 91, 104, 106.

¹³ *Ibid.* 344.

¹⁴ *Cal. Fine R.* 1272-1307, p. 258; *Rot. Orig. Abbrev.* i, 60.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* 238.

¹⁶ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* v, 504; Vidler, *A New Hist. of Rye*, 16.

¹⁷ *Cal. Close*, 1234-7, p. 163. Jurats appear here also for all the Cinque Ports except Hastings.

¹⁸ *Mins. Accts.* 1028, no. 8.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* no. 12.

²⁰ *Cal. Close*, 1296-1302, pp. 207, 390, 481, 489, 501, 576, 612.

²¹ *Custumal*, c. 8; Holloway, *Hist. of Rye*, 177.

²² Vidler, *op. cit.* 89, 157.

²³ An excellent series of Chamberlains' Accts. Churchwardens' Accts. Hund. Bks. &c. exists in the Town Hall at Rye.

²⁴ Vidler, *op. cit.* 35, 41.

²⁵ *Cal. Pat.* 1327-30, p. 403.

and in 1377 the details of the actual customs duties on which it was to be levied were specified, including the 3d. poundage which normally went to the royal customs officials.¹ The mayor and commonalty also imposed on themselves a tax of 1½d. on every 20s. of rent in the town and ¼d. on every 20s. of goods and money, to be paid weekly as a contribution towards the defences.² In 1458 particulars are given of a half-shot, or scot, imposed on all the inhabitants according to their ability, of which the payments ranged between 3s. 4d. and 3d. and produced a sum of £5 13s. 3d.³

The establishment of a borough court is indicated by the grant of quittance of shires and hundreds in the charter of Richard I, and it is referred to later as 'the hundred'. It was held by the Abbot of Fécamp until 1247, after which it was held by the king's bailiff. In 1272 Matthew de Hastings, bailiff, accounts for the pleas and perquisites of the court, including actions for debt, breach of covenant, trespasses, and failures to comply with the proper procedure of the court.⁴ Later bailiffs' accounts show similar business, and in the early years of the reign of Edward II the bailiff, Henry Paulyn, held about 24 courts a year on alternate Wednesdays, ⁵probably following the practice of Luke de la Gare who, as bailiff of Queen Eleanor, held courts at Rye every fortnight.⁶ The next surviving accounts, beginning in 1342,⁷ show the courts held irregularly on Sundays or Wednesdays, but they gradually became fewer until by 1364 only four courts for residents were held in the year.⁸ The explanation is no doubt that the mayor with his growing authority was more and more regarded as the king's representative and so acquired many of the functions of the bailiff. Probably the bailiff's and the mayor's courts existed side by side for some years, dealing with similar cases, but the bailiff, perhaps to preserve his position, changed the day of his court from that of the mayor. His court, however, dwindled and in the Custumal his jurisdiction is only admitted with regard to complaints concerning foreign strangers. In 1343 the bailiff held a joint court for indwellers and strangers;⁹ ten years later, however, separate courts were held, five in the year.¹⁰ Even these courts passed under the jurisdiction of the mayor, who according to the Custumal, by the law merchant, held a court of pie powder¹¹ from day to day for the necessary business of foreigners,¹² with regard to which the bailiff only retained his rights to amercements.

The dual position of the mayor as king's representative and as head of the municipal government complicates the distinguishing of the courts. In the former capacity he acted as coroner¹³ and dealt with attachments of felons. He also held pleas of the crown, according to the Custumal, 'in playne hundred'¹⁴ in the market-place. With regard to the borough and manorial jurisdiction, he with the jurats held 'all manner of pleas in the King's court house',¹⁵ but, as royal representative, his presence also in the king's court was essential for the holding of pleas of land,¹⁶ when judgements were delivered by him after they

had been heard by the mayor and jurats together.¹⁷ The clearest distinction is perhaps in the curious procedure by which the oath-helpers in an appeal of felony were selected. The defendant brought 36 men, and if they all answered correctly to their names the mayor, on behalf of the king, dismissed 12 of them, and the mayor and jurats on behalf of the town dismissed another 12, leaving the remainder to swear with the defendant.¹⁸ The natural result of all this interlacing of functions was that the mayor and jurats held the court on all occasions, although sometimes in pleas of land it was specifically called 'Curia domini Regis' and was not held on the same day as the common court.

The Custumal gives many details of the procedure, which can be seen in practice from the records. The freeman's right of appearing in court and pleading his right to three delays was still in use in the 16th century. The Custumal, however, makes no mention of the later very common procedure of both parties submitting cases in dispute, usually of debt and trespass, to the verdict of four arbitrators with a final decision by an outside authority, with a penalty of 40s. upon both parties if the case was not terminated before a given date.

In addition to these functions, the mayor and jurats had special rights of jurisdiction in affrays in the town and in particular if they were committed in their presence or upon their own persons. Offences of this nature against the peace and order of the town appear under 'constituciones ville' and the fines were 'ad opus ville'. Moreover, as part of the municipal jurisdiction the mayor and jurats had taken over the administration of the assize of bread and ale,¹⁹ though the bailiff still accounted for sums received from fines in 1363.²⁰

By the general privilege enjoyed by the Cinque Ports and their members, appeal lay from the jurisdiction of the mayor and jurats to the Lord Warden's Court of Shepway, but before this, if fault were found with their judgement, the mayor and jurats of Rye (Custumal, c. 45) had the right 'to have interparlance with their brethren of the Five Ports by a Brotherhood' to take advice about the ministration of justice.

The election for the mayor took place at the cross in the churchyard at Rye on the Sunday next after the feast of St. Bartholomew at an assembly of the whole commonalty of the town.²¹ If he refused to serve, the commonalty pulled down his house.²² After being sworn in by the retiring mayor, he proceeded to choose '12 jurats of the prudents of the commonalty'. The mayor received 13s. 4d. a quarter in 1448, rising to 50s. by the end of the 16th century.

The next official to be elected was the common clerk, who was chosen by the mayor and jurats together. The earliest suggestion of the existence of such a person is the appearance of 'Peter the clerk' as the final witness attesting deeds, which he had probably drawn up, almost continuously from 1300 to the early years of the reign of Edward III.²³ The person chosen next, described as the mayor's sergeant in the Custumal, appears later under the title of the mayor's 'satellite'²⁴

¹ Ibid. 1377-81, p. 74.

² Ibid. 1367-70, p. 224.

³ Chamberlains' Accts. i, fol. 64.

⁴ Mins. Accts. 1028, no. 8.

⁵ Ct. R. (P.R.O.) 206, no. 37.

⁶ Mins. Accts. 1089, no. 21.

⁷ Ibid. 1028, no. 12.

⁸ Ibid. no. 16.

⁹ Ibid. no. 12.

¹⁰ Ibid. no. 16.

¹¹ In 1578 it was stated that the bailiff 'if it be a court of Pipe powders hath double fees both for sommons attachmentes amercementes and with drawghtes': Exch. Dep. East. 20 Eliz. no. 8.

¹² Ct. Bk. (Rye) xix, fol. 83 v.

¹³ Custumal, c. 12.

¹⁴ Ibid. c. 15.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid. c. 41.

¹⁷ Ibid. c. 37.

¹⁸ Ibid. c. 12.

¹⁹ Custumal, c. 27.

²⁰ Mins. Accts. 1028, no. 15.

²¹ Custumal, c. 1.

²² Cf. Round, 'Communal House Demolition', *Feud. Engl.* 555.

²³ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* v, 503.

²⁴ Chamberlains' Accts. i, fol. 7.

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or alternatively as 'claviger', carrying the mace. These are the only town officials mentioned in the Custumal, but by the time the town records start several more have appeared; the two collectors of the great maltod, the collector of the rapiers' box, and the two chamberlains or treasurers.¹ Chamberlains were first appointed in 1478.² They presented their accounts for a yearly audit in solemn form before the mayor, jurats, and commonalty, in the chapel of St. Mary's Church. About the beginning of the 16th century there appears a common sergeant³ (*claviger ville*) with a quarterly wage of 3s. 4d. who took over the functions of the collector of the rapiers' box, and two clerks of the market.⁴ The earlier custom was that the mayor and jurats were elected first and the other officials on the Sunday following; but in the 16th century one meeting of the common assembly was deemed sufficient, and later to avoid interference with Sunday observances the day for election was changed from the Sunday to the Monday after St. Bartholomew's Day.

It is uncertain at what period the town was divided into wards. The earliest mention is in 1414, when the inhabitants are grouped under wards for the collection of a half-scot. Four wards are mentioned: 'The ward without the gate,' Nesse Ward, Watermelle Ward, and Market Ward.⁵ In 1575 the constables in every ward had to see to the due provision of lanterns and candles in the streets.⁶ Later, in 1608, there were six wards: Market, Wish or Watchbell, Baddings, Strand Gate, Land Gate, and Middle Street Ward.⁷

In the 19th century Rye was one of the 'rotten boroughs' whose constitution was overhauled and remade at the time of the 1832 Reform Act. An investigation of the conditions of burgess franchise at an earlier date forms a natural prelude to the examination of the later constitutional decay. The privileges granted to Rye in its early charters were originally enjoyed indiscriminately by 'the men of Rye' and even towards the end of the 13th century a petition of the barons to the Chancellor, Walter de Merton,⁸ stated as the reason for claiming the full privileges of the Cinque Ports on behalf of one of their barons, that 'inter nos liber et ingenuus natus est'. The most valued privileges were those connected with trading rights, the freedom from tolls and customs, and the support of the community in pleas of withernam in disputes with other boroughs. It was natural that only those of the community who took part in trade should trouble to acquire their freedom, while the trading privileges it gave induced many foreign merchants to acquire it. By the middle of the 14th century, when the Custumal was compiled, a stranger had to show residence for a year and a day and pay such sum as might be awarded by the mayor and commonalty. All freemen had to pay scot and lot with the community,⁹ and the difficulty of enforcing payment by those not dwelling permanently within the town is illustrated by the fact that in 1424 it was decreed that no foreigner should be admitted as a freeman unless he found security for the payments.¹⁰ Freemen are mentioned

as coming from Somerset, Dorset, and Devon,¹¹ and later many are by their names obviously of Dutch or French origin.

The French wars and the periodic burnings to which the town was subjected lessened its prosperity in the 14th and 15th centuries, though it was still a thriving trading community. It is difficult at this period to gain an exact idea of the number of freemen in the town, but the early corporation records throw some light on the subject. In 1448 and 1449, about 30 'advocants' (i.e. foreign freemen) paid yearly for their freedom.¹² But the numbers of the 'advocants' show a sharp decline, and several arrears in payment are noted. These early payments from 'advocants' cease altogether after the first year of Richard III.¹³ In 1458 there are 86 names on the 'shotte rolle' (apparently excluding foreign freemen).¹⁴ The imposition of a penalty for throwing up the freedom points to a decline in the value attached to it. Nevertheless, throughout at least the first half of the 16th century, Rye retained one of the best harbours on this part of the south coast and the returns of the tax on fishing-boats show great activity, while the peaceful relationships established by the Tudors with the Continent encouraged trade.

The real decline in the fortunes of the town and with it the tendency to a narrowing of the burgess franchise began in the reign of Elizabeth, when the retreat of the sea was rapidly ruining the harbour. Simultaneously the corporation, to remedy the decline in their resources, increased the rates for becoming a freeman; which was calculated to discourage foreign traders. In the middle of the 15th century the usual sum paid by a stranger for acquiring his freedom was 6s. 8d., but often a lesser sum was exacted. In 1562 it was decreed that new freemen should pay 40s., natives 20s., and the sons of freemen as before (a nominal exaction).¹⁵ Later even this was not considered sufficient. Complaints were made in 1571 of 'the loss which the town has received in the revenues by imposing too small fines upon persons of ability in paying for the same'. It was decided therefore that the above rates should be a minimum and the mayor and jurats should be at liberty to impose as much more as should seem good to them.¹⁶ Even more significant, though only temporary, was the attempt lasting from 1575 to 1590 to vest the functions of the whole commonalty in a body of 24 common councillors¹⁷ out of whose ranks the jurats were to be appointed, from whom in turn the burgesses to Parliament were to be elected, while even in the choice of a mayor the commonalty could only choose between three of the jurats selected by the retiring mayor and the 12 jurats.¹⁸ This may have been an attempt to insure that at least some members of the commonalty should take a permanent share in the administration, but there was a considerable difference between this number of 24 and the estimated number of freemen given in 1580 as 'not many above 100 persons' of whom at least 80 had taken part in a disputed election of the mayor.¹⁹

The gradual closing of the corporation was in-

¹ Chamberlains' Accts. i, fol. 7.

² Vidler, op. cit. 40.

³ Chamberlains' Accts. iii, fol. 286.

⁴ Ibid. iv, fol. 124.

⁵ Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. v, 497.

⁶ Ibid. xiii, App. iv, 49.

⁷ Vidler, op. cit. 71.

⁸ Anct. Correspondence (P.R.O.), vii,

187.

⁹ Custumal, c. 28.

¹⁰ Ct. Bk. (Rye) xix, fol. 38.

¹¹ Chamberlains' Accts. i, fol. 82 v.

¹² Ibid. fols. 4 and 9.

¹³ Cf. ibid. ii, fols. 12b and 35.

¹⁴ Ibid. i, fol. 64.

¹⁵ Volume of Custumal, including later decrees, &c., among Town Hall Records

at Rye. Decrees of William and Mary repeating those of the reign of Elizabeth, c. 15.

¹⁶ Ibid. c. 90.

¹⁷ Hist. MSS. Comm. Rep. App. iv, 44, 57.

¹⁸ Ibid. 73.

¹⁹ Ibid. 71.

timately connected with the growing pressure of external influence in the choice of parliamentary burgesses. The early summonses to attend the King's Council were in the nature of unpleasant obligations or in the course of necessary business. In 1235 Rye and Winchelsea both sent 18 of their better men to a meeting of the Cinque Ports summoned by the king at Dover *ad loquendum nobiscum de negociis nostris*.¹ In 1264, among the other Cinque Ports, Rye sent representatives to Simon de Montfort's parliament. In 1322 representatives of the Cinque Ports were for the first time summoned in the normal form, but no returns are found before those for the Parliament of 1366. But among a long list of those known to be attending Parliament in 1327, 30 barons of the Cinque Ports appeared at the Guild Hall to take an oath to safeguard Queen Isabelle and Prince Edward.²

When the corporation records start, in 1448, one of the representatives, Robert Onwyn, was receiving 1s. a day in wages (55 days),³ which in 1450 had risen to 18d. a day.⁴ There is no mention of any payment to the other representative, who at that date was a foreign freeman, Thomas Stoghton, a fishmonger of London, who is noticed elsewhere as an 'advocant', paying his yearly contribution to the town. By 1492 the wages had reached the normal level of 2s. per day.⁵

The practice of choosing the leading men of the town received confirmation when in 1580 it was decreed that the burgesses for Parliament should be chosen out of the jurats by the mayor, jurats, and common council.⁶ Nevertheless this was a first step towards restricting the freeman's choice. Moreover, a foreshadowing of later external influence appeared in 1581 when Lord Buckhurst tried to force the mayor and jurats to reinstate his servant Thomas Edolphe into their fellowship after his recent ejection.⁷ With the opening of the reign of James I, however, the matter became serious. In 1603 Lord Cobham, the Lord Warden, wrote to the mayor and jurats 'I expect you should yeild me the nomination of one of your burgesses for this next Parliament',⁸ and again in 1607 he urged that 'though I never meant to press further upon your courtesy in those things that belong to your own right than reason moves . . . I make bold to recommend to your acceptance my request for the choice of Mr. Henneage Finche into the place of Hamonde (deceased), one of the Burgesses of your town. . . . He will be willing in respect of his abode in this place to ease you of that daily and large allowance which was before allotted to the predecessor.'⁹ Henneage Finche was duly returned. These were probably the first tentative beginnings of a prerogative claimed and exercised by the Lord Warden until it was declared illegal in 1689.¹⁰ Other influential personages also exerted themselves to obtain the nomination of burgesses, including Sir William Twysden, William Angell (on behalf of his son), the Duke of Lennox, and the Earl of Dorset. In 1625 there were five candidates recommended.¹¹ In 1620 the Lord Warden made a further effort to undermine the privileges of the town, for in recommending Emmanuell Gifford he says, 'I think it needless for him to be sworn a

freeman of your town'.¹² Nevertheless, the corporation clung to this right; for a month or two later Gifford wrote to them thanking them for their choice of him and for 'your admittance of me to be one of your corporation'.

Contemporaneously with these attacks on the corporate privilege from without, the process of contraction of the corporate body was going on within. The mayor's privilege of electing one freeman gratis each year was becoming more valuable, and was more frequently exercised now that the entrance fees were so exorbitant (often £4 or £5). Moreover, the use of the term 'election' instead of 'admission' points to a growth of the spirit of exclusion. Nevertheless throughout the 17th century the majority of new freemen were elected (probably on payment of high fines), and it was not till the beginning of the reign of George I that even this slightly more liberal form was abandoned and entrance was solely by mayor's privilege or by birthright. Various disputed elections at the end of the 17th century settled fairly conclusively that only those persons resident in the town and therefore helping to support the common charges had the right to vote.

The 18th century witnessed the final closing of the doors of the corporation. Not only were there no 'elections' but from 1727 to 1749 the same two members, Sir John Norris and Philipps Gibbons,¹³ represented Rye and moreover in 1742 bound the town to loyalty to them by lending £450 each to the corporation for the building of a new Town Hall, a debt which was finally redeemed by the Duke of Newcastle in 1754. From 1715 to 1820 all but about ten of the mayoralties were held by members of four closely interrelated families, the Grebbells,¹⁴ the Lambs, the Slades, and the Davises. As a final touch, in 1758 five members of this family party entered into a written agreement to exert themselves for the benefit of each other, for the good of the corporation in general, to consult together on all matters and to use their best endeavours to succeed each other in the mayoralty in a recognized sequence.¹⁵ By 1818 the corporate body consisted of 33 members, only 15 of whom were qualified to vote; of the others, 12 were office-holders and 6 were non-resident.

Agitation against this state of affairs began in 1825 when a large body of the men of Rye petitioned to be admitted on the old terms of paying scot and lot, taking an oath and paying a legal rate of fine. After an exciting local struggle,¹⁶ including the election of a rival mayor by the malcontents, and numerous appeals to the Court of King's Bench, at last in 1830 a favourable decision was awarded to Colonel De Lacy Evans by a committee of the House and again in 1831, and he thus sat and voted in Parliament for the passing of the great Reform Bill. Thenceforward the qualification to vote for the parliamentary candidate was regulated by the various Franchise Acts, but the status of 'freeman' survives in that a non-resident who can prove freedom by birthright has still a parliamentary vote though no municipal rights. After the Reform Act of 1832 the parliamentary boundaries of Rye were enlarged to form a new borough constituency for the

¹ *Cal. Close*, 1234-7, p. 161.

² *Cal. Pleas of City of London*, 1323-64, p. 14.

³ Chamberlains' Accts. i, fol. 5.

⁴ *Ibid.* fol. 32 v.

⁵ *Ibid.* iii, fol. 113.

⁶ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii, App. iv, 73.

⁷ *Ibid.* 80.

⁸ *Ibid.* 126.

⁹ *Ibid.* 135.

¹⁰ Holloway, *op. cit.* 224.

¹¹ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii, App. iv, 173.

¹² *Ibid.* 158.

¹³ Gibbons apparently sat in every

parliament from 1708 until his death in 1762, and Norris in all but that of 1722 from 1708 until 1749: Vidler, *op. cit.* 166.

¹⁴ Thomas Grebbell was mayor ten times between 1699 and 1713: *ibid.* 161.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* 102.

¹⁶ For details see Holloway and Vidler.

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return of one member, and in 1884 Rye was merged in the Eastern Division of Sussex.

Under the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835 the freemen of the borough, acting as a body and no longer divided into wards, elected 12 councillors, who chose from their own number a mayor and four aldermen. On petition a Commission of the Peace was granted and a Recorder was appointed to hold the Court of Quarter Sessions.¹

The earliest known seal of Rye is of the *SEALS*² early 13th century. The obverse bears a ship with sail furled, above which are the sun and moon. Both stern- and fore-castle carry a plain banner. In the stern-castle is a man holding the steering oar. Legend: *SIGILLVM : BARONVM : DE : RIA*. The reverse shows the very ornate facade of a church, with central tower flanked by two western towers. Above the door, in an octafoil, is the Virgin with the Child. The church rises from among houses, and in the base waves are indicated. In the field is on either side a quatrefoil containing a head, full-face, and above are sun, moon, and stars. Legend: *STRENTA : GENS : RIE : PRECE : FIET : SALVA : MARIE : TERRA DET ESSE : REAM : NEC : MARE : PERDAT : EAM*.

This seal was probably lost in 1380 and replaced by the existing one. Obverse: a ship sailing to dexter; on the stern-castle a man in armour holds a banner charged with the cross of St. George; a similar banner stands on the small fore-castle, and a pennon floats from the mast above the fighting top. At the foot of the mast is a mariner. Legend: *SIGILLVM : BARONVM : DE : RYA*. Reverse: side elevation of a church with clerestory and a central tower which forms the canopy of a niche containing the Virgin and Child, the whole surrounded, in base, by an embattled wall. In the field, above, are sun and moon and many stars. Legend: *AVE : MARIA : GRACIA : PLENA : DNS : TECUM : BENEDICTA : TU : IN : MULIERIBUS*.

The mayor's seal is a copy, made in 1574, of a 14th-century original. It bears the arms of the Cinque Ports between three wyverns. Legend: *SIGILLUM : OFFICII : MAIORIS : VILLE : DE : RYA*.

The corporation has a pair of silver-gilt maces, 4 ft. 6 in. long, of which the shafts are inscribed, 'T. HEMING FECIT. RYE. 1767'; the crowned heads with the arms and monogram of George III bear the hallmarks for 1767-8.³ There is a pair of smaller maces, 14½ in. long, of silver parcel-gilt with iron cores; the shafts, one of which is dated 1570, have three pierced flanges, and semi-globular heads in which have been inserted silver shillings of James I.⁴

In 1880 Alderman Charles Selmes presented a gold medallion of the borough arms to be worn with the mayor's chain, which has been formed by each successive mayor presenting one gold link; this was completed in 1928, and the succeeding mayor, Mr. Joseph Molyneux Jenkins, presented a smaller chain. In 1925 Mr. Walter Dawes, for forty years town clerk, pre-

sented a pendant and chain for the use of the mayoress.⁵

During the period of the prosperity of the *PORT* Cinque Ports, Rye shipping held a secondary place compared with that of Winchelsea though its services were important, both in fitting out its own quota of ships (usually 5) and in keeping and manning some of the king's galleys.⁶ The assaults of the French and the inroads of the sea delayed the development of the port, and in 1449, owing to the impoverishment of Rye, Tenterden was incorporated as a member to aid with the Crown services.⁷ The member's contribution amounted only to half-yearly payments of 40s., which were often in arrears;⁸ but the services themselves were less frequently exacted⁹ and of less general value as the royal fleet developed under the Tudors. The decay of Winchelsea in the 15th century, however, brought a renewed activity to the life of Rye. In the 16th century Rye was one of the most important ports of passage to France and one of the very few harbours of refuge on the south-eastern coast. Moreover, the small fishing vessels still did valuable service in bringing in news of enemy manœuvres and in harrying foreign ships. For the French expedition of 1545 out of a total naval force of 69 boats and 10,390 men, Rye provided 7 boats and 224 men,¹⁰ all small vessels, therefore, but in 1542 the Earl of Norfolk had reported that he would rather have 6 or 8 boats of Rye than 2 good ships.¹¹

Queen Elizabeth's visit in 1573 when she honoured the town with the title of 'Rye Royal' was apparently the culmination of its glory but really coincided with the beginning of its decay. In 1562 a survey of the River Rother from Newenden to Rye showed that the channel had in some places narrowed from between 200 ft. to 300 ft. to between 16 ft. to 25 ft. across. The channel being thus blocked up, the river was swamping much good ground and likely to do more damage still unless Rye harbour could be cleared out to give the water easier egress.¹² On the other hand, all the marsh round East Guldeford was being 'inned' by the Guldeforde family about this time, thereby upsetting the action of the tides in keeping the harbour clear.¹³ Moreover, witness is borne to the new marsh land which was becoming available in 1561-3 by an offer to take in fee farm all the salt marshes adjoining the Camber, covenanting in return to keep the harbour in repair.¹⁴ A last ravage by the sea about 1572, when it broke in behind the town on the north-west, was hailed by the mayor and corporation as an improvement to the harbour and they refused to help the owners of property which was thereby being drowned.¹⁵ But it was to no purpose. In 1576 the town called in the advice of certain Dunkirk experts who could hardly advise them to undertake the vast work entailed;¹⁶ in 1579 the mayor and jurats applied to the Privy Council for help, 'having to the uttermost of our

¹ Vidler, op. cit. 122.

² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* i, 18; xvii, 64; *B.M. Cat. of Seals*, ii, 175.

³ New maces were presented in 1768 by the mayor, Thomas Owens, and the Members, John Norris and Rose Fuller: Vidler, op. cit. 104.

⁴ Jewitt (*Corporation Plate*, ii, 375), gives a strangely incorrect description of the larger maces, ascribing the shafts to Thomas Maundy, c. 1650, and stating

that the heads bear the initials C.R.

⁵ Vidler, op. cit. 134, 150.

⁶ *Cal. Close*, 1242-7, p. 45; *ibid.* 1251-3, p. 130.

⁷ *Cal. Pat.* 1446-52, p. 276.

⁸ The payment seems to have lapsed about 1745, though vain attempts were made to exact it as late as 1766: Vidler, op. cit. 103.

⁹ The last performance of such service seems to have been in 1626 when the

Cinque Ports were ordered to provide two ships of 200 tons: *V.C.H. Kent*, ii, 314.

¹⁰ *L. & P. Hen. VIII*, xx (2), 27 (2).

¹¹ *Ibid.* xvii, 754.

¹² *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1547-80, p. 202.

¹³ *Add. MSS.* 5704, fol. 20.

¹⁴ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1547-80, p. 402.

¹⁵ Vidler, op. cit. 62.

¹⁶ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii, App. iv, 53.

powers bestowed great sums of money upon the same'.¹ In 1591 the scheme of a certain Italian, Genebelli, involving a cost of £4,000 was nearly adopted,² a scheme for raising money for the repair by a tax of 1d. on every barrel of beer in all ports being proposed,³ but it was abandoned, chiefly, apparently, because it would have benefited Winchelsea. By 1618 the mayor and jurats were complaining that 'now is our Harbour so decayed that all Trade has forsaken us'.⁴ Five years later they were protesting the importance and the decay of their harbour and asking for the control and profits of the light on Dungeness, erected some 12 years before by John Allen of Rye and maintained by a levy of 1d. on the ton of ships passing it.⁵ And still in 1700 they were urging their brethren of Dover to join them in a petition to Parliament for the preservation of Rye harbour.⁶ All the investigations held, however, showed that the task of restoration was wellnigh impossible. In spite of this the Harbour Commissioners spent £60,000 between 1769 and 1788, under the direction of John Smeaton and other experts, on schemes which proved entirely useless.⁷

Rye has always been a fishing community and reflects this character in many points of its municipal organization. The early agreement with the Abbot of Fécamp with regard to the 'shares'⁸ in the proceeds of the four fishing fleets of the year indicates the value of the industry, and the maltdos on fishing-boats and the sums received from the rippers' box⁹ show, apart from the effect of occasional vicissitudes of war, a steady increase of profit, at least until the end of the 16th century. A form of 'fishing gild' must have developed at a very early stage. Nor was the division and apportionment of the fishermen's catch the only sign of economic corporate activity. There is no trace of a gild merchant in any of the Sussex Cinque Ports, but the practice of collective bargaining was in force. The Custumal (c. 51) states 'that the freemen of Rye were wont, and ought, to be partners in all manner of merchandize' whether present at the actual transaction or not. Later on it appears probable that this privilege was not acquired *ipso facto* by becoming a freeman, for the Chamberlains' Accounts show frequent payments 'for having his heape (*cumelum*) at the Strand', payments which often accompanied, but also as often did not, the taking up of the freedom. Either a 'whole heap' or a 'half heap' could be acquired by paying 6s. 8d. or 3s. 4d., and the identification of the 'heape' with the share in merchandize is supported by the ordinance of 1424,¹⁰ 'quod si quis scottat 3s. 4d. habebit mediam partem omnium rerum si presens fuerit vel aliquis nomine suo. Et qui scottat 6s. 8d. et ultra habebit partem integram'. Of the merchandise thus dealt with the most important was wine. At the capture and retaking of Rye in 1216 the wine-merchants of Rochelle suffered considerable losses,¹¹ and among the spoils carried off by the French when they

sacked Rye in 1377 were 42 casks of wine.¹² But this branch of trade seems to have almost disappeared in the 15th century, and the proportion of the inhabitants engaged in any trade but fishing was always small.

In company with fishers from the other Cinque Ports, Rye fishing-boats went every year to the Yarmouth Fair, and later the yearly voyage to Scarborough became important.¹³ At least as early as the 13th century Rye supplied fish for the royal household,¹⁴ and, although by the end of the 16th century the royal purveyors were finding some difficulty in asserting their right to the first choice of the best fish,¹⁵ it was still an essential source of their supplies as late as 1627.¹⁶ The extent to which the whole life of the community was connected with the fishing industry may be gathered from a petition of the Rye barons in 1305 that their fair might be changed from the date of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin to the Assumption because its prosperity was endangered by the fact that at the former date 'all the people of the country are at sea engaged in fishing'.¹⁷ Moreover, in 1440 it was said that the people of Rye, Winchelsea, and Hastings 'care nothing for agriculture but employ themselves solely in fishing and sea works'.¹⁸ Throughout the 16th and 17th centuries a large part of the official correspondence of the town was devoted to problems of controlling the fishing and, in particular, preventing illegal fishing by French boats.¹⁹

In addition to the sale of fish the chief articles of export trade were wood and salt. Rye acquired a certain monopoly over the shipping of 'billets' of wood for fuel from the surrounding thickly wooded district and was the centre of a very active trade.²⁰ Certain neighbouring townships appear to have compounded for the export dues payable on their wood, as in 1492 the 'boroughs', or tithings, of Knell, Wevilrigge, Hope, and Heighton in Goldspur Hundred paid various sums *pro billettis suis*, a phrase subsequently replaced by *pro libertate sua*.²¹

In 1577 Lord Buckhurst retorted to a complaint made by the inhabitants of Rye about the waste of wood by his iron furnaces that within the last two years they had themselves exported more than 1,000 tons of timber.²²

The salt-pans on the neighbouring marshes were also an early source of profit. A customs account for 1380 shows dealings in wood, charcoal, herrings, salt, boards, and iron.²³ Foreign trade was largely with the Netherlands and occasionally as far afield as Spain, some oil and spices being imported.²⁴ In 1364 certain vintners of Rye were licensed to go to Spain to buy wine, provided a certain amount of it was bought in exchange for cloth.²⁵

Another occupation of Rye inhabitants for which they earned a certain degree of fame was that of ship-building. In the 13th and 14th centuries galleys were frequently built and repaired there.²⁶ The harbour (in its prime) afforded good accommodation for such

¹ Ibid. 64.

² Ibid. 100; Vidler, op. cit. 67.

³ Lansd. MS. 70, fol. 5.

⁴ Add. MS. 5705, fol. 140. Rye was still one of the chief cross-channel ports for passengers at least as late as 1636: *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xviii, 170-9.

⁵ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii, App. iv, 166-70.

⁶ Egerton MS. 2087, fol. 83.

⁷ Vidler, op. cit. 104-7.

⁸ See *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 264.

⁹ Chamberlain's Accts.

¹⁰ Ct. Bk. (Rye) xix, fol. 38.

¹¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1216-25, p. 248.

¹² *Chron. Angliae*, 1328-88 (Rolls Ser.), 151.

¹³ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii, App. iv, 215.

¹⁴ *Cal. Close*, 1254-6, p. 169.

¹⁵ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii, App. iv, 109.

¹⁶ *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 156.

¹⁷ *Anct. Pet.* no. 487; *Rot. Parl.* (Rec.

Com.), i, 477.

¹⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1436-41, p. 381.

¹⁹ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii, App. iv, *passim*.

²⁰ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxix, 170-82; *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 233; Custumal, c. 5.

²¹ Chamberlain's Accts.

²² *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii, App. iv, 57.

²³ Customs Accts. bdle. 33, no. 8.

²⁴ Ibid. bdle. 147, no. 15.

²⁵ *Cal. Pat.* 1364-7, p. 16.

²⁶ *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 234.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

work and in 1545 it was a Rye shipwright who made the king's new ship called the *Maistres*.¹ Fifty years later the *Hercules*, of 150 tons, was built, apparently at Rye, at the cost of various burgesses of the town.² The Rye yards continued to turn out fishing vessels of good quality, and in the middle of the 19th century there was a burst of activity. Three Rye ship-yards built mortar-boats for the Crimean War, and in 1857 several steamers and sailing ships, ranging up to 350 tons, were built here.³ Thirty years later a fleet of five ketch-rigged barges of about 230 tons burden were built for a local company,⁴ and small craft are still built here.

Other trades and occupations were chiefly connected with the normal necessities of life. There were repeated regulations for bakers and brewers,⁵ and in 1575 the bakers petitioned that the brewers, who were rich enough already, might not be allowed to practice the trade of baking as well without being properly apprenticed to it.⁶ In 1577 the Company and Fellowship of Drapers and Tailors also petitioned for the enforcement of apprenticeship regulations.⁷ In the 16th century the inhabitants of Rye suffered considerably from the influx of foreigners from France and Flanders.⁸ In 1539 it is stated that some of them have taken certain mansions wherein they have exercised to their own uses the arts of 'knitting and beting of nettes, eysyng and cuying of lines for fishing and other handycrafts to the loss of our English mariners'.⁹ Moreover, in 1577 the 'cordiners or shoemakers' of Rye petitioned to be formed into a company to enable them to combat the competition of 'French and other foreign strangers flying to the said town for succour and who there use the same occupation whereby the honest householder of the said occupation is not able to live'.¹⁰ No other gilds are recorded, and there is no trace of the existence of any craft gilds at Rye in the Middle Ages.

The discovery of a pottery kiln on Rye Hill in 1931 by Mr. L. A. Vidler brought to light a hitherto unsuspected activity at an early date. A huge mass of 'throw outs', some with designs of figures and conventional patterns and figured tiles, bears witness to a large output from the 13th century till about the middle of the 14th century.¹¹ The pottery industry was revived again in Rye about the end of the 18th century,¹² and further developed in about 1850.¹³

The pre-Conquest grant of the manor *MANORS* of Rameslie to the abbey of Fécamp has already been dealt with. When the towns of Rye and Winchelsea were resumed by the Crown in 1247 much of Rye parish was left in the possession of the abbey and, being outside the liberty of the town, was known as *RYE FOREIGN*.¹⁴ This was, probably at that time, joined to the abbey's manor of Brede and descended with that manor (q.v.).

The manor of *LEASAM* or *LEWSHAM*, in the north part of Rye Foreign, was a sub-infeudation of Brede. It first appears definitely as a manor in 1304, when land near 'the tenement of La Lee' (on the border of Iden parish) was held by payment of 2½*d.* to Samson de Leuelishamme at his court of Lewsham.¹⁵ Members of this family occur during the previous century, Gerard de Leuesham holding land in Rye in 1200.¹⁶ In 1260 Maud, widow of a Samson de Leuelesham, was holding in dower lands and rents in Lewsham and Gateborough, the reversion of which her daughter Agatha, wife of John de Orlauston, demised to Matthew de Hastings and Audrey his wife.¹⁷ At the same time John and Agatha granted other lands in the neighbourhood to Roger de Pageham.¹⁸ Then in 1313 Thomas de Sneylham, possibly acting on behalf of the Samson who held in 1304, granted the manor of Lewsham by Rye, excepting 80 acres, to a later Roger de Pageham and Agnes his wife.¹⁹ She was probably the Agnes de Leuelesham who occurs in the Subsidy Rolls of 1327 and 1333²⁰ and most likely the daughter of Samson.

In 1447 Adam Leuelorde leased the manor to Robert Onewyne and two other men of Rye for 5 years at £20; they were to pay the sums due to the court of Brede and to repair the roofs of the farm-buildings, of which he would maintain the walls; there is no indication of any manor-house.²¹ Then, in 1454, we find Thomas Pope and Katherine his wife transferring the manor of Lewsham to Robert Hoorne and others,²² trustees for a settlement on John Chitecroft and Margaret his wife.²³ John Pope, son of Thomas, son of this Katherine in 1527 recovered the manor against Giles Fenys, to whom it had been left by his father Sir Thomas Fenys, who had died seised of it the previous year.²⁴ The Fenys, however, retained possession, John, of Claverham, dealing with the manor in 1555.²⁵ His daughter Joan and her husband Thomas Culpeper in 1598 transferred their interest to John Threele,²⁶ son of her sister Agnes. John's son Thomas, who is called 'of Lewsham' in the visitation pedigree,²⁷ was holding in 1621 and 1650,²⁸ and his son John, with his wife Anne, in 1655.²⁹ In 1676 Laurence Threele and Frances his wife sold the manor to Robert Burdett.³⁰ Subsequently Thomas Short, M.D., is found in 1701 selling to Thomas Macro,³¹ and in 1724 Thomas Macro, four members of the Short family, George Burwash and Susan his wife, and five other persons sold the manor to David Morris,³² and in the same year George and Susan Burwash separately sold it to Thomas Lake.³³ Capt. Henry Kite bought the manor in 1787 and it was sold on his bankruptcy in September 1790 to the Rev. Jeremiah Smith.³⁴ In 1797 the manor was held, with those of Iden and Moat, by John Norton,³⁵ and by 1835 it was the property of E. J. Curteis.³⁶

Gateborough, or Cadborough, on the borders of

¹ *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 145.

² *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii, App. iv, 110. ³ Vidler, op. cit. 128.

⁴ *Ibid.* 136.

⁵ *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 260-3.

⁶ *Ibid.* 262.

⁷ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii, App. iv, 55.

⁸ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiii, 182.

⁹ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xix (2), p. 349.

¹⁰ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii, App. iv, 55.

¹¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxxiii, lxxiv, lxxvii.

¹² See examples in museums at Rye and

Hastings.

¹³ *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 253. ¹⁴ *Cal. Close*, 1247-51, p. 49. Reference to the *forinsecae terrae* of the abbot.

¹⁵ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* v, 504.

¹⁶ *Cur. Reg. R.* i, 345; *Suss. Rec. Soc.* ii, nos. 49, 113.

¹⁷ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* vii, no. 652. An Agnes Orleston died in 1409 holding 'various lands' of the manor of Brede: Court R. (P.R.O.) 205, no. 59.

¹⁸ *Ibid.* no. 654.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* xxiii, no. 1379.

²⁰ *Ibid.* x, nos. 216, 327.

²¹ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* v, 500.

²² *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxiii, no. 3122.

²³ *Add. MS.* 39377, fol. 120.

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 275. ²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ *Visit. of Suss.* (Harl. Soc.), 75.

²⁸ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 276.

²⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² *Ibid.*

³³ *Ibid.* 277.

³⁴ *Ex inf.* Mr. L. A. Vidler.

³⁵ *Recov. R. East.* 37 Geo. III, ro. 303.

³⁶ Horsfield, *Hist. of Suss.* i, 500.



RYE CHURCH: THE NORTH TRANSEPT AND TOWER

Rye Foreign and Udimore,¹ although it was one of the tithings of Goldspur hundred as late as 1296² and a considerable hamlet, was a member of the manor of Brede³ and does not seem ever to have acquired manorial status.

The church of *ST. MARY* is a large *CHURCH* cruciform church consisting of chancel, north and south chapels, central tower, with transepts, nave, north and south aisles, north porch, and two south porches, one of which has an adjoining vestry. The church throughout is built of stone. The roofs are covered with tiles, with the exception of the roof of the north transept and the roofs of the aisles of the nave, which are covered with lead.

There is no structural evidence of work here before about the middle of the 12th century. The main portion of the existing building, however, comprising the chancel, nave, transepts, and crossing, was begun at this period and finished about 1180. Towards the end of the 12th century the north and south aisles of the nave were added. The north chapel was built about 1220 and the south chapel about 1250. In the 14th century north and south porches were built to the nave, the north doorway being then blocked. Windows were also inserted in the walls of the aisles. Early in the 15th century the whole of the south arcade of the chancel, the western arch of the north arcade, and the chancel arch were all rebuilt. The south and west arches of the crossing, and those between the transepts and chapels, were also all rebuilt at this period, and the clerestory windows of the nave enlarged. A flying buttress was built outside at the south-east of the chancel to support the thrust of the new arcade. The present south porch was also built in the 15th century and, about 1500, large windows were made in the north and south walls of the transepts, involving the destruction not only of the original windows and wall passages but of the wall arcading below them and of a fine south doorway.

Considerable damage was done to the fabric of this church at the Reformation.⁴ The chapels were screened off from the chancel and devoted to secular uses, that on the south being used as a powder house, and their east windows were blocked. The south porch with its adjoining apartment was diverted from its original use, the apartment itself was used for burial, the outer doorway blocked, and the chamber above partially destroyed. In 1702 the present low spire was put up on the tower; the gable of the south transept, destroyed probably when the great south window was inserted, and filled in with timber and plaster, was also rebuilt at this period.⁵ In 1862-3 the chapels were restored and the partitions between them and the chancel removed,⁶ and between 1882 and 1884 the chancel and nave were restored; galleries, which had been erected round the nave, were removed, the clerestory windows were rebuilt, and the west doorway was blocked.

The chancel is lighted by a large window in the east wall, of six cinquefoiled lights with a transom, and tracery in a pointed head. It is of early-15th-century date, repaired, and is a particularly fine example of its period. In the wall below the window are two round-headed recesses for reliquaries. They are placed 6 ft. 10 in. apart and are about 20 in. wide, 2 ft. 3 in. deep

and 3 ft. 9 in. high, and are each decorated with an edge-roll. They are of 12th-century date, but much of the moulded stonework has been renewed. On the north of the chancel is an arcade of three pointed arches. The middle and easternmost arch with the clustered pillar between them are of about 1220. The arches have a label and two orders, the upper order richly moulded and the lower a hollow chamfer. The pillar is composed of four round and four keel-moulded shafts and has a capital enriched with finely cut foliated ornament. The east respond is modern and the base of the pillar has been renewed. The westernmost arch, which is of two moulded orders without label, and the second pillar are of early-15th-century date. Here the mouldings of the outer order of the arch are continued down the pillar without break, the inner order only falling upon a shaft with moulded capital and base. On the south of the chancel is an arcade of three arches similar to the western arch of the north arcade, and the chancel arch is also of the same design. At the north-east of the chancel a buttress-like projection rises against the west wall to a height in line with the head of the chancel arch. When the south arcade was built, or shortly afterwards, a flying buttress was constructed outside the east wall to support its thrust. This buttress, which springs from a massive pier standing clear of the wall, is decorated with pierced tracery and crochets. A modern buttress of the same design has been built against the north arcade of the chancel.

The north chapel, of St. Nicholas, is lighted on the east by a large pointed window of five lights with modern tracery and mullions in a 15th-century arch. The easternmost bay on the north shows signs of having been rebuilt, apparently about 1745;⁷ there is an abrupt change in the character of the masonry, and, although lines of the west jamb and arch of an early window are visible from within, all trace of the eastern part of the window has disappeared. In each of the other two bays is a pair of tall lancet windows of about 1220, separate but grouped together; the internal jambs and arches have continuous edge-rolls with moulded bases, and above the arches are labels with dog-tooth ornament. The sills of the windows are 10 ft. 6 in. above the floor and a passage through the thickness of the wall at this height is carried across the lancets and through the intervening jambs. Outside the bays are divided by buttresses of slight projection and a double chamfered string-course is carried below the sills. Near the west end of the wall is a pointed doorway. The arch between this chapel and the north transept is of early-15th-century date and is like those in the chancel.

The south chapel, of St. Clere, has also in the east wall a large pointed window with modern tracery in a 15th-century framework. Below it is a round-headed doorway with modern stonework. In the first two bays in the south wall is a window, of about 1250, of two tall lancet lights with a circular piercing in a pointed head. Externally the stonework of the heads of the windows has been renewed. The rear arches are moulded in one order and have labels, with head stop, and each jamb has an edge-roll which rises to a moulded capital with foliated ornament and dies into a stop at the base. Here also a wall passage at the level of the sills is carried across the window. In the western jambs the

¹ The farmhouse of Cadborough lies within the Liberty of Rye.

² *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, 16.

³ Aug. Off. Misc. Bks. 436.

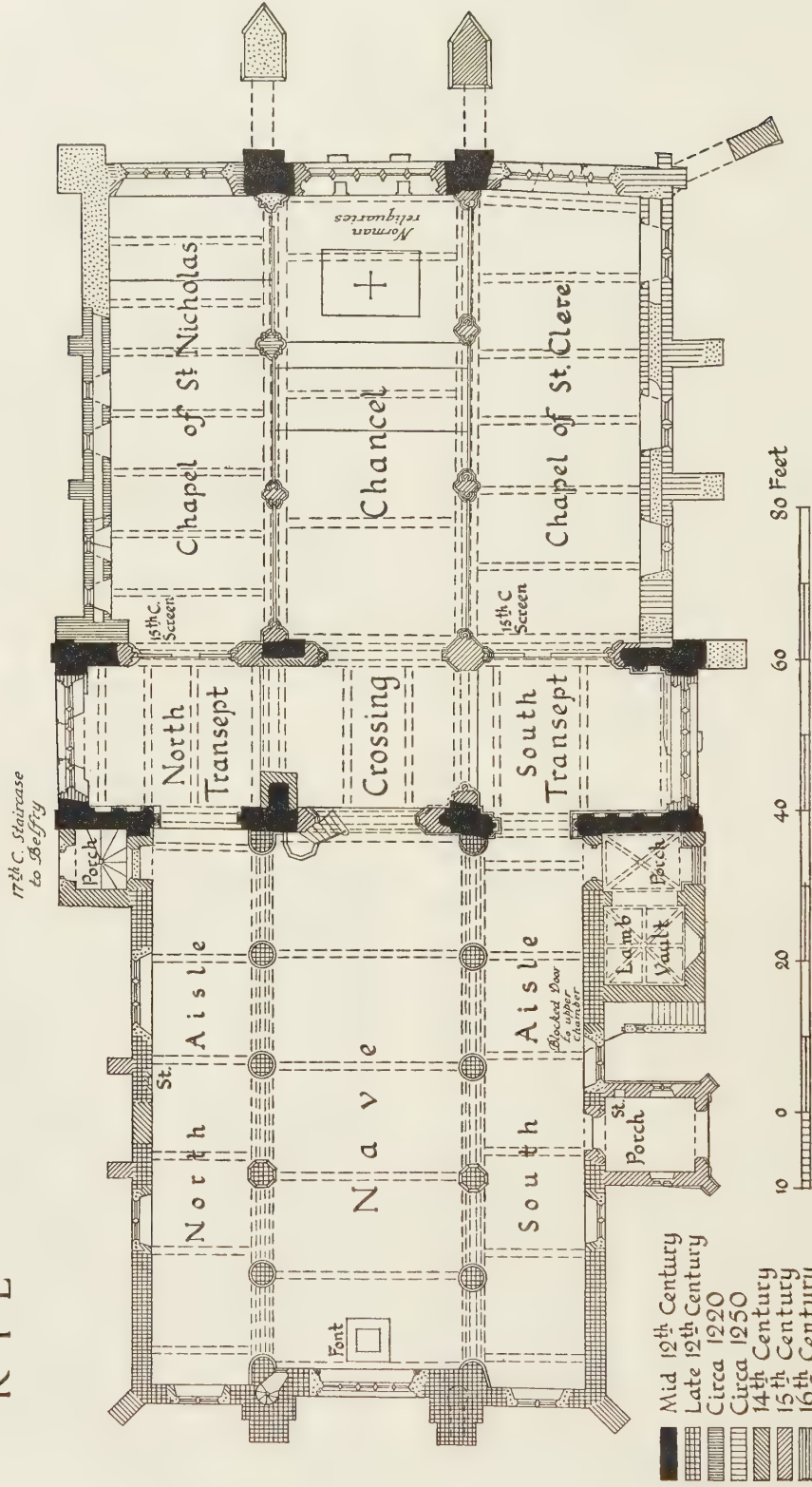
⁴ Vidler, op. cit. 56, 60, 63.

⁵ Ibid. 88.

⁶ Ibid. 131.

⁷ Churchwardens' accounts: *ex inf.* Mr. L. A. Vidler.

PARISH CHURCH of ST. MARY R Y E

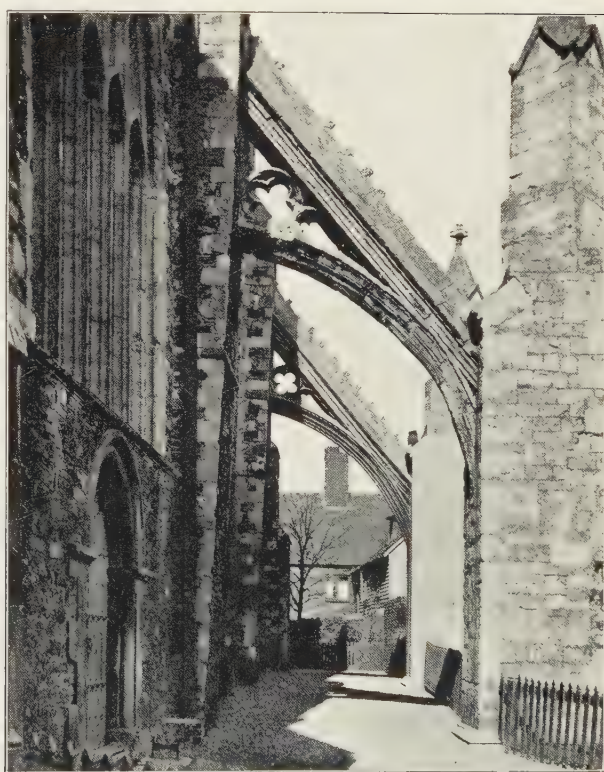




RYE CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST: *c.* 1800
(From a drawing in the Sharpe Collection)



RYE CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST



RYE CHURCH: FLYING BUTTRESSES AT EAST END



RYE CHURCH: INTERIOR, LOOKING EAST



RYE CHURCH: INTERIOR, CHANCEL AND CHAPEL OF ST. CLERE

passage has been blocked but its outline is still visible. It is probable that originally it ran round the whole church, the different heights being reached by means of internal stairways; for it appears again in the clerestories of the nave and the transepts. Owing to the various uses to which the south chapel was put while it was screened off from the rest of the church the western bay of the south wall has been broken into and again closed and patched. A window here of the same design as those of the other bays was blocked for many years, but has been opened out and rebuilt in modern stonework. It shows no traces of the wall passage. In the 14th century a flying buttress was built at the south-east corner of the chapel, the corner itself being weighted by a large octagonal pinnacle which rises from the level of the eaves and is carried beyond the walls on squinch arches. The buttress on the south wall also has been strongly reinforced. Between the chapel and the south transept is a pointed arch resembling the chancel arch.

Of the four arches of the crossing below the central tower that to the chancel has been described. The arch on the south is similar: the shaft of the east respond has been cut away for a mural monument. On the north is a pointed arch of three chamfered orders which die into the wall at the springing on both sides. It is 15 in. less in width than the original wall of the tower, but is in line with the north face of the wall. It is probably of 14th-century date. Between the crossing and the nave is a pointed arch of three hollow-chamfered orders having responds with moulded capitals and bases. The design of this arch is of the 14th century, but most of the stonework is modern. The single stage of the tower above the roofs was probably constructed about the end of the 14th century. On each face there is a square-headed window of two trefoiled lights. The tower is surmounted by an embattled parapet and an octagonal spire covered with slates. This stage of the tower is approached by a stairway in the thickness of the wall leading from the wall passage in the north transept.

The north transept had originally a blind arcade carried round all three walls internally and interrupted only by the north doorway and the arches. A column and a portion of the plinth of this 12th-century arcade remain at the north-east corner and high above it is the springing of another blind arch, with billet edge-moulding. This arch, now cut back to within a few feet of the north wall, is probably all that remains of two arches originally carried across the face of the east wall. In the middle of the north wall is a restored round-headed doorway of 12th-century date. It has angle shafts with modern scallop capitals and an arch of two orders with billet ornament. This doorway has been moved from its original position, some 6 ft. to the west, where it is shown in a drawing of 1760 and where a portion of the abacus is still to be seen. Above this doorway is a large five-light transomed window with tracery in a four-centred head; it is of early-16th-century character, but its stonework has been renewed. At the north end of the west wall are two arches of the wall arcade: they stand on a low plinth and are of two orders enriched with battlemented and billet ornament springing, at a height of 8 ft. 9 in., from shafts with scallop capitals, only one of which is original. The round arch to the south aisle, much restored, is of two plain orders. Above the arch the west wall is projected out about 10 in. on

a blind arcade consisting of one wide central arch and two half arches. The arches spring from two foliated corbels which rest upon grotesque heads. A moulded string-course is carried across the wall above the arches and from the level of the string rise two clerestory windows, spaced widely apart, each of one round-headed light with a tall rear arch springing from detached shafts in three lengths with bands at the joints and moulded capitals and bases. A wall passage is carried across the windows. All this work is of late-12th-century date.

The east wall of the south transept, like that of the north, has been altered considerably. At the south-east corner are vestiges of a 12th-century wall arcade, which was carried round this transept also, and high up in the wall are the remains of a string-course and the jamb of one clerestory window. On the south the plinth of the wall arcade is carried as far as the south doorway on the western half of the wall. The doorway was blocked and partially destroyed, probably when the large window was inserted above. The west jamb is of two orders, the inner having a shaft with capital and abacus, much weather-worn, and the outer order relieved only by a roll moulding and rising to an abacus 1 ft. 6 in. above the other. Of the first two orders of the arch, of which about a quarter remains, the lowest has disappeared, the next has a chevron moulding with points outwards and the third an indented lozenge-shaped ornament. A label with nail-head ornament was carried up to form a gable over the doorway, which cut about 6 in. into the roll-moulded buttress at the west and stretched eastwards beyond the centre line of the south wall. The buttress at the east end of the wall is carried without break to the ground. Above the doorway is a transomed window of five lights similar to that in the north transept. In the west wall of the transept are three arches of the wall arcade, having chevron moulding and foliated capitals. Much of the stonework is modern. The round arch to the south aisle has also been extensively renewed. It is of three orders, the first round and the others plain, and springs from jambs of two orders, having detached shafts with foliated capitals. Above the arch are two clerestory windows and a string-course as in the north transept.

The nave has on either side a richly moulded arcade of five slightly pointed arches of similar design on both sides and all of the late 12th century. The third pillar from the east on either side is octagonal, the others, with the responds, are round and 2 ft. 10 in. in diameter. The arches are of three orders, the first plainly chamfered and the others decorated with roll, hollow, and keel mouldings. Though repaired, the arches are original work. The pillars have moulded bell-shaped capitals and moulded bases, much restored, except the first pillar from the west on either side. Above each arch on either side is a modern single-light clerestory window, constructed in 1884 in place of others of 15th-century character. The old wall passage at this level is preserved at the jambs of the windows but is blocked in many places; at the north-west corner of the nave is a blocked stairway up to it. The west front of the nave with its strong flanking buttresses terminating in bold pinnacles presents an imposing appearance. Above the central doorway, blocked some years ago, is a large west window of five lights constructed about 1860.

The north aisle has two windows in the north wall;

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one, opposite the second bay of the nave, of three lights with geometrical tracery, all modern stonework; and the other, opposite the fourth bay, a two-light window in a square head, only the segmental rear arch of which is original. Between the windows is a blocked doorway, east of which, in the aisle, is a pointed stoup of about 1300 with a single chamfer and pyramidal stops, one stop being repaired with cement: the bowl is missing. Near the east end of the wall is another blocked doorway from the north porch; and in the west wall of the aisle is a two-light window in a square head, all the external stonework being modern. The north porch is of two stories, subsequently faced on the north side with cut flints. It is entered from the north by a modern brick doorway with a wood square-headed frame and now contains a wooden stairway leading to the wall passage and the tower. The porch had a pointed barrel vault, only the springers of which now remain; the doorway into the church has an arch of two moulded orders and a label and is of 14th-century date. The upper chamber must have been approached from above and there are indications of a blocked door, which perhaps communicated with the wall passage, on the side towards the transept. There is a small rectangular window in the north wall of the chamber and another, now blocked, in the west wall, and a small loop, formed in a recess, looks into the north aisle.

The south aisle has in the south wall two windows, each of two lights with tracery in a square head, almost entirely of modern stonework. In the west wall is a modern two-light window. The south doorway has a pointed head with continuous mouldings. It is of 15th-century date, but has been extensively repaired. The south porch is lighted on either side by a window of two lights, modern externally. In the east wall is a stoup with a pointed head: the bowl is missing. The outer doorway has been rebuilt.

Near the east end of the south wall is a pointed doorway leading to an earlier porch and its adjacent chamber, called the Lamb vault. For many years this building, which dates from the 14th century and was perhaps founded as a chantry, was used as a burial place for the Lamb family, but it was cleared out and restored about 1860. It is of two stories; the lower divided into two vaulted bays, one of which is the porch proper, and the upper story forming one chamber. The porch has a quadripartite stone vault with moulded ribs springing from foliated corbels, and a central boss carved with a rose having in the centre a sun-face with a long protruding tongue. The outer doorway is blocked. It has a pointed head of two moulded orders. The doorway into the church is more richly moulded, and the mouldings are continuous in the pointed head and jambs. There is now no structural division but the transverse arch between the porch and the adjoining chamber. This last, now used as a vestry, is a square apartment similar to the porch, the boss of the vault carved with a plain rose. The vault has been repaired and the infilling is modern. In the south wall is a large quatrefoil window the upper half of which is modern. The upper stage stood unroofed and neglected for a long period before its recent restoration. It was approached originally from within the south aisle by a doorway in the wall near the eastern window and a flight of steps leading up to the doorway in the west wall of the chamber. The lower

doorway, which had been broken into for the window, was discovered beneath the plaster eight years ago and is still exposed. It has a pointed head with continuous mouldings. The lower portion of the flight of steps was found at the same time. The chamber has been re-roofed and repaired and the entrance doorway, at the north end of the west wall, is now approached from outside the church by steps placed against the west wall of the chamber. The doorway is of plain character with a pointed head; above it, in the centre of the wall, is a large circular window which probably, like that in the vaulted chamber below, originally inclosed quatrefoil tracery.

The roofs of the church throughout are modern. The font is modern.

The altar in the north chapel is an elaborately carved mahogany table, probably of about 1725 and of Spanish workmanship. It is carved with fruit, cherub's heads, and other devices, and the legs with lion's heads and claws.

The pulpit is of oak, composed of 16th-century linenfold panels on a modern base.

In each of the arches between the chapels and the transepts is an oak screen of the 15th century with a doorway. In the stairway in the north porch is a 15th-century bench-end. On the floor of the chancel is a slab with the brass effigies of a civilian and his wife of about 1490. The head of the man is missing. He wears a long gown and pointed shoes; the woman is in a long fur-lined gown. There are indents for two groups of children, two shields, and a marginal inscription. On the floor behind the high altar is a brass to Thomas Hamon, died 1607. His head is bare and he has a full beard: he wears an official gown, ruff, and shoes with rosettes. There is an imperfect marginal inscription and beneath the figure the following inscription:

'LOE THOMAS HAMON HERE ENTERD DOTH LYE
THRICE BURGESS FOR THE PARLIAMENT ELECTED
SIX TIMES BY FREEMENS CHOYCE MADE MAIOR OF RYE
AND CAPTAIN LONGE TIME OF THE BAND SELECTED.
WHOSE PRUDENT COURAGE, JUSTICE GRAVITIE
DESERVES A MONUMENT OF MEMORIE.'

On the floor of the chancel is a slab with indents for three shields and an inscription. One shield and the sinister half of another remains. The shield bears a lion, quartering a lion within an invected border. The half shield, a fesse between six ravens.

In the chapel is an iron-bound chest. The clock in the tower was made at Winchelsea in 1560¹ and is still working, the long pendulum swinging in the church below. Above the clock face, on the north side of the tower, are oak Quarter Boys which strike the bells and between them the inscription: 'For our time is a very shaddow that passeth.' The Quarter Boys, the framework in which they are set, and the clock face all date from about 1760. The quarter bells are (1) 1761, (2) 1801. In the tower is a peal of eight bells, all by Pack and Chapman, 1775.²

The plate consists of two silver cups of 1635; a silver paten on a foot of 1704; another of 1722; a chalice or paten of silver gilt of 1886; a silver flagon of 1732. There is also a pewter flagon inscribed: 'This flagon used in the celebration of the Lord's Supper by the Minister of the Protestant Refugees who found an Asylum in Rye after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes 22nd October 1685, was presented

¹ Vidler, *op. cit.* 69.

² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 222, where the verses inscribed on them are given.

for the use of the church to the Vicar and Churchwardens of Rye by William Holloway and Sarah his wife, formerly Sarah Meryon, a Descendant of one of the Refugees, 5th May 1860.¹

The registers begin 1538.

Rye Church was probably one of *ADVOWSON* the five churches in the manor of Ramesley at the time of the Domesday Survey (1086). It remained in the possession of Fécamp Abbey until the resumption of the town by the king in 1247, when the annual pension of 13 marks from the church was confirmed to the abbey, provided no other rights were claimed.² The Crown retained the patronage until 1363 when Edward III granted it to the Abbey of Stanley in Wiltshire.³ After the Dissolution, the rectory was appropriated in 1551 to the bishopric of Winchester,⁴ but the vicarage and the right of presentation became annexed to the manor of Brede, then in the possession of the Sackville family (later Earls of Dorset) from 1554 to 1624, when Margaret Sackville, who married John Tufton, Earl of Thanet, was patron. In 1650 the advowson was in the possession of Sarah, wife of Charles Tufton, and passed with the manor in 1690 into the Broomfield family. In 1726 the manor and advowson were purchased by Sir Spencer Compton and remained in the possession of his descendants, Earls of Northampton, until they passed with the marriage of the heiress, Lady Elizabeth Compton, to the Cavendish family in 1782. The manor was sold to Thomas Cooper Langford in 1841, but the advowson has remained with the succeeding Dukes of Devonshire down to the present day.⁵

St. Nicholas' Chantry was founded in 1281 by the will of Brice Palmer of Rye and endowed by him.⁶ The first presentation was made by John, son of Henry Bone, as heir of Brice. In the 14th century the descent of half the advowson of the chantry can be traced from John Ambroys of Rye to John, son and heir of Robert Alard of Winchelsea, to John Peytevyne of Winchelsea,⁷ and thence to John, son of Nicholas Monyn and his wife Alice (in right of the latter), in 1415.⁸ In 1419 and 1420 William and Thomas Longe were patrons.⁹ In 1500 Richard Croche left an endowment of 6s. 8d. yearly for a stipendiary priest,¹⁰ and this was apparently annexed to the chantry.¹¹ When the chantry was disendowed in 1547 the emoluments of the priest were £6 13s. 4d.¹² There was also a brotherhood which was suppressed at the same time.¹³

Various forms of Nonconformity have been very strong in Rye at different times. Even in 1591 resentment was expressed against 'a small sect of Puritans now of late sprung up amongst us' who were officiously trying to turn out the minister on a charge of non-residence.¹⁴ This may have been partly due to the presence of a large body of French Huguenots and Flemish Protestant refugees from 1562 onwards, and the establishment of a French Church,¹⁵ which was given for its head-quarters the ancient house of the Austin Friars. During the Civil War Rye as a whole was strongly Puritan, and the Presbyterian form of

worship received strong support there, led by the elder Samuel Jeake,¹⁶ who in the reign of Charles II suffered much from the persecution of Nonconformists and had to leave the town from 1682 to 1687. The new era of toleration enabled the Presbyterians to have a meeting house in Mermaid Street in 1703, presented by the wife of the second Samuel Jeake.¹⁷ The first half of the 18th century saw the rise of the Quaker sect, but in 1753 they sold their meeting-place to the Baptists,¹⁸ who have been a flourishing community in Rye ever since, in spite of an unfortunate schism of a body of Independents in 1811. They now possess a new chapel (built in 1910) in Cinque Ports Street. Perhaps the strongest manifestation of Nonconformity, however, was the body of Wesleyan Methodists which sprang up towards the end of the 18th century. Wesley himself visited the town and preached in 1773 and again in 1778, 1789, and 1790, when he was received by enthusiastic congregations but could not persuade the majority of the inhabitants to give up the sinful profits of smuggling, which he could not agree to countenance.¹⁹ The present chapel near the Gun-garden was built in 1814 and new Sunday Schools were erected close by in 1900.

A Roman Catholic church was built in Watchbell Street in 1900 and was subsequently rebuilt on a larger scale, being opened by the Italian ambassador in 1929.²⁰

Alexander Wells by indenture dated *CHARITIES* 10 April 1550 granted to the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of Rye a piece of land without Land Gate, to build a house, and make a garden thereto, to the use of poor aged and infirm persons of Rye. The almshouses were rebuilt in 1784, but were pulled down by the South-Eastern Railway Company in 1849, when new almshouses were erected in Military Road.

John Bradley by his will dated 1721 gave £5, the interest to be laid out in the purchase of bread for the poor. The trustees are the town council, who annually give 5s. to the vicar and churchwardens, who distribute it to poor persons on Good Friday.

Edward Wilson's Charity. The date of foundation is not known but for many years the sum of 5s. annually has been distributed in the same manner as John Bradley's Charity.

Mrs. Margaret Horsfield by her will dated 22 December 1756 gave £100 to the mayor, jurats, and freemen of Rye, the interest to be distributed on Christmas Day to 16 of the industrious poor inhabitants of Rye who should not receive parochial relief. The town council distribute £4 yearly as above.

Jenkin Hague by codicil to his will proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 5 June 1777 gave £100 4 per cent. Bank Annuities to the pastor of the Congregation of Particular Baptists in Rye for the sole benefit of the pastor; and George Hilder, the date of whose gift is unknown, gave £400 2½ per cent. Annuities in augmentation of this charity. These endowments produce annually £12 10s. which is paid towards the minister's stipend.

¹ Ibid. iv, 204.

² *Cal. Pat.* 1232-47, p. 503.

³ Ibid. 1361-4, p. 327.

⁴ Ibid. 1550-3, p. 178.

⁵ For the descent of the advowson see Vidler, op. cit. 155-6.

⁶ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* v, 498.

⁷ Ibid. 509.

⁸ Ibid. 514.

⁹ Ibid. 498. Stephen Paulyne was patron

pro hac vice in 1397: *Reg. of Rob. Rede* (*Suss. Rec. Soc.*), 240.

¹⁰ Vidler, op. cit. 45.

¹¹ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxvi, 31.

¹² Ibid. 55.

¹³ Ibid. 31.

¹⁴ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii, App. iv, 98-9.

¹⁵ Ibid. 63; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiii, 180-

208. After the Massacre of St. Bartholomew's Day 1572 there were 50 households of French refugees settled in Rye. Another influx occurred after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, 1685.

¹⁶ Vidler, op. cit. 76, 81, 85.

¹⁷ Ibid. 88.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid. 107.

²⁰ Ibid. 141, 153.

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Lady Gower's Charity. The Commissioners in their report on charities of 1819 state that on a tablet of beneficiaries hung up in the vestry room of Rye Church it is mentioned that Lady Gower left £100 3 per cent. Consols to the vicar of Rye, the rector of Winchelsea, and Jeremiah Curteis, esq., the interest to be expended in the education of poor children in Rye. The vicar of Rye, the rector of Iden, and the vicar of Winchelsea have administered the charity from 1824, and it now produces £2 18s. 4d. annually in dividends.

Mary Ann Turner by her will proved at Lewes on 20 March 1857 directed her trustees to invest such a sum out of the sale of her house in the High Street, Rye, as would provide a yearly annuity of £2 to be paid to the vicar and churchwardens and applied in the purchase of bread to be distributed on Good Friday among the poor of the parish. The dividends, amounting to £1 13s. 4d., are applied as above.

Charles Thomas by his will proved in London on 9 July 1879 gave £200 to the vicar and churchwardens, the income to be applied in sums of 5s. amongst as many poor widows and unmarried women as the trustees deem deserving and in need on 1 January each year. The endowment produces about £5.

Calvinist or Independent Baptist Chapel and Trust Property comprised in indentures dated 7 July 1767, 29 December 1788, and 25 April 1854 and a deed poll dated 25 June 1889 is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners of 25 January 1910, which appoints trustees.

Congregational Chapel and Trust Property in Conduit Street comprised in an indenture dated 25 June 1883 is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners which directs that the charity shall be administered by the Sussex Congregational Union [Incorporated].

Miss Harriett Payne by her will dated 23 November 1895 gave £300 to the vicar and churchwardens, the income to be applied for the benefit of Church of England mission work in immediate connexion with the mission room of the Good Shepherd in Rye. The endowment produces annually about £11, which is paid towards the upkeep of the mission room and the expense of an assistant curate.

George Crowhurst Rubie's Charity, founded by will proved in London on 3 January 1917, is regulated

by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 11 December 1917 which appoints trustees and provides that the income shall be applied in payment of pensions for 6 poor widows of 65 upwards, residents of Rye for at least 20 years and not having received poor law relief during that period. The endowment produces annually £78.

Rye Merchant Seamen's Fund was founded by indenture dated 14 May 1924 and made between the administrative trustees and the Board of Trade. Whereas under an Act of George II intituled an 'Act for relief and support of maimed and disabled seamen and the widows and children of such seamen as shall be killed, slain or drowned in the merchant service', a certain fund was vested in the trustees of the town and port of Rye, the Board of Trade agreed to appoint the Official Trustees to hold the stock. The administrative trustees are appointed as provided by the indenture. The endowment consists of 3 cottages at South Under Cliff, Rye, leased by yearly agreement with Rye Corporation and sublet to 3 tenants at £1 each, and Stock producing annually £14 12s. 8d. which is paid out in gratuities.

George Hilder by his will proved in London on 29 December 1902 directed his executors to sell the residue of his estate, the income to be distributed among the aged and indigent poor of the town. The endowment, held by the mayor, aldermen, and councillors of Rye, produces £124 annually. The income is distributed as to £50 to the Borough of Rye Nurses Fund for a nurse, £5 for clerk's salary, and the residue in coal and nourishment tickets.

Wesleyan Methodist Chapel and Trust Property in the Gun Garden, comprised in indentures dated 15 October 1814 and 4 June 1846, is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners of 19 June 1894 which appoints trustees and provides that the chapel shall be held upon the same trusts as the Wesleyan Chapel Model Deed.

The Rye Harbour Lifeboat Disaster Fund originated in a sum of about £34,450 raised by public subscription when the Rye Harbour lifeboat was lost with all hands (17 men) on 15 November 1928. After all reasonable needs of the dependants had been met, the balance of the fund was handed over to the Public Trustee, with a local advisory committee.¹

WINCHELSEA

Wincenesel (xi cent.); Winceleseia (xii cent.); Winchenesel, Winchesele (xii–xiii cent.); Winchelsey (xv cent.).

The origin of the ancient town of Winchelsea is unknown. If the coin of Edgar bearing the mint name of 'Wencles' could be assigned to this place² it would prove its existence as a borough in the 10th century; but in the absence of other coins and of all corroborative evidence this attribution is more than doubtful. Cnut is said to have given to Fécamp two-thirds of the toll of 'Wincenesel' together with Æthelred's promised gift of the manor of 'Rammesleah' with its port (of

Rye?).³ The site was presumably included in the Abbot of Fécamp's manor of 'Rameslie' in 1086,⁴ but, with the exception of Orderic's statement⁵ that William I, returning from Normandy, landed at 'the port which they call Vincenesium' on 7 December 1067, its history is unrecorded until 1130. At that date an agreement was made between King Henry I and the Abbot of Fécamp for sharing the toll of ships at Winchelsea.⁶ The subsequent rapid development of Winchelsea as a limb of Hastings has already been dealt with.

The original town lay on the east of the estuary running up to Rye, with a branch, the Wainway

¹ Vidler, *op. cit.* 152.

² It was so ascribed in Hawkins, *Silver Coins of Engl.* (1876), 147; but it is now recognized that this legend belongs

to Winchcombe: e.g. G. C. Brooke, *Engl. Coins*, under 'Mints'.

³ *Eng. Hist. Rev.* xxxiii, 343–5.

⁴ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 391.

⁵ *Hist.* (ed. Prévost), ii, 178.

⁶ *Cal. Docts. France*, 41; cf. *Pipe R.* 31 Hen. I (H.M. Stat. Off.), 71.



WINCHELSEA: THE STRAND GATE

Creek, eastwards on the north of Old Winchelsea.¹ By the middle of the 13th century it was being seriously affected by inroads of the sea. In 1244 the barons were permitted to levy a due of 2s. on every ship carrying 80 tuns or more of wine, in order to make a quay,² and in 1249 the custody of the town was granted to them for a year, at 130 marks, provided they were diligent in repairing and preserving the town against the sea.³ Next year a great storm broke on the coast and the sea overwhelmed more than 300 houses and certain churches, to say nothing of huts connected with salt-making and fishermen's sheds.⁴ The Prior of Cogges and other persons were ordered to make a scheme for protecting Winchelsea from the sea,⁵ but on 13 January 1252 another terrific storm swept over England, of which Matthew Paris says:⁶ 'And, to pass over other misfortunes and disasters, we are moved to speak of certain things which we know and experienced. At Winchelsea, a port most valuable to the English and especially to Londoners, the sea, bursting through the sea-walls (*litorum confinia*), invaded mills and houses and swept away many drowned men.' The wording suggests that the chronicler, if not actually an eye-witness, was personally interested, and as John and Henry Paris occur, some thirty years later,⁷ among the landowners in this marsh it is tempting to suggest that he was himself a native of Winchelsea.⁸

In 1262 a grant of murage for 7 years was made to the barons because of imminent peril from the sea which was constantly threatening the town;⁹ and on its expiration in 1269 the grant was renewed for 5 years for the same reason.¹⁰ By 1280 it was clear that nothing could save the old town and in November Edward I took steps to acquire the manor of Iham, in Icklesham parish, where an isolated hill rose on the west of the estuary.¹¹ Just a year later arrangements were made for letting building plots on the new site to the inhabitants of the old town.¹² In October 1283 Stephen de Pencestre, Warden of the Cinque Ports, and others were commissioned to lay out the new town with streets and lanes, a place for the market and sites for the churches of St. Thomas and St. Giles.¹³ The great storm of February 1288¹⁴ completed the ruin of Old Winchelsea and in the following June King Edward confirmed the barons in their possession of the new site and all their old privileges.¹⁵

The hill on which New Winchelsea was built forms roughly an isosceles triangle with its short base on the north, overhanging the harbour formed by the River Brede, and its apex about four-fifths of a mile south. The north-west angle, containing the church of St. Leonard and the township of Iham, although within the walls, was outside the liberty. The town walls, which seem to have been carried farther to the west, enclosing another 15 acres on the west side in 1320, have completely disappeared,¹⁶ except for some foundations on the west and a fragment near the Land Gate. This gate, the Strand Gate at the north-east of

the town, and the New Gate at the extreme south are the only gates now remaining.

The area within the walls, containing 150 acres, was laid out symmetrically and the streets, even where they are no longer in use, can still be traced. In the northern part of the town they intersect nearly at right angles, inclosing blocks of almost similar size, but further south this regularity was abandoned, though the lines of the main streets were carried straight through from north to south. Old Winchelsea had had two churches, and these were refounded in the new town. That of St. Thomas still stands, though incomplete, but the last remains of St. Giles, to the west of the centre of the town, were removed about 1760. The ruins of St. Leonard's were also removed, some fifty years later, to make room for the existing windmill, which was then shifted from a site about 200 yards to the north-east, near 'the Roundle',¹⁷ a stone tower which was probably either 'the stone mill' mentioned in the boundaries of the liberty in 1330 or its successor. When the barons migrated to their new site they stipulated that no religious house should be founded therein, except a house of Gray Friars, who had been established in the old town since about 1250.¹⁸ This friary was built on the east side of the town, close to the market square and original town hall, and the ruins of its chapel still stand. The Black Friars, or Dominicans, eventually in 1358 obtained a site, just to the south-west of the Land Gate, where the foundations of their house apparently exist.¹⁹ Of the three hospitals,²⁰ all in the south of the town, only a gable wall of St. John's remains.

At the present time the houses are almost entirely confined to the north-eastern quarter of the site, representing 12 out of the original 39 blocks, and among them are many very pleasant buildings of the 17th and 18th centuries, some of which include medieval features.

The Pipewell or Land Gate, also at one time called the Ferry Gate, one of the original town gates, was destroyed by the French in 1380, and rebuilt in the first decade of the 15th century. It lies on the north side of the town, at the exit to Ferry Hill, and is a plain rectangle on plan (16 ft. 5 in. by 13 ft. internally), with the roadway running through it from east to west. The town wall ran east from the north-east angle, and west from the south-west angle. The south wall appears to have been masked by another building, and retains the rebated jambs of a doorway leading out of this. The walls to the gate are 3 ft. thick, of rubble with ashlar dressings. The east gateway had a double arch, each of one chamfered order, but only the springers now remain. The west gateway has a three-centred archway of two chamfered orders. Above it is a badly worn panel with a heater-shaped shield with a beast (said to be a squirrel), and over it is inscribed I · HELDE. —presumably John Helde, who was mayor in 1404–5. The interior of the gateway has the remains of a flattish barrel vault divided into three bays by hollow-

¹ The marshland between the Wainway and Broomhill still forms the parish of St. Thomas of Winchelsea.

² *Cal. Pat.* 1232–47, p. 427.

³ *Ibid.* 1247–58, p. 39.

⁴ *Mat. Paris, Chron.* v, 176.

⁵ *Cal. Pat.* 1247–58, p. 90.

⁶ *Chron.* v, 272.

⁷ *Rentals and Surveys (P.R.O.)*, 661.

⁸ Our attention was called to this

interesting possibility by Mr. W. M. Homan.

⁹ *Cal. Pat.* 1258–66, p. 226.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* 1266–72, p. 357.

¹¹ *Ibid.* 1272–81, p. 414.

¹² *Ibid.* 1281–92, p. 3.

¹³ *Ibid.* 81.

¹⁴ *Gerwase Cant.* (Rolls Ser.), ii, 293.

¹⁵ *Cal. Close*, 1279–88, p. 509.

¹⁶ They were apparently still standing

as late as 1570; see map in P.R.O.

¹⁷ Cooper (*Hist. of Winchelsea*, 36–7) supposes this to have been a watch tower, but Mr. Homan has demonstrated that it is the tower of a windmill. It was removed in 1828.

¹⁸ *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 96.

¹⁹ *Suss. N. & Q.* v, 225–7.

²⁰ *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 107.

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chamfered ribs. Only the springers of the latter now remain.

The New Gate, on the original southern boundary of the town, on the road to Hastings, is at the junction of the southernmost stretch of the town wall and the beginning of the western wall. The two ends of the wall are turned inwards at an acute angle so as to make a walled passage 10 ft. 4 in. wide and 11 ft. deep, and spanned by a segmental pointed vault divided into two bays by a chamfered rib. The inner entrance to the passage, on the east side, has a segmental pointed arch of one chamfered order carried down the jambs. The west entrance has a similar arch, but of two orders. The east, and open, ends of the recesses made by the junction of the town wall with the passage walls have segmental arched heads. Modern walls have partly blocked up the recesses.

The Strand Gate, at the north-east corner of the town, astride the road which led to the quay, and possibly, as does the present road, to Rye, is of 14th-century origin. It has four round towers linked by short side walls, east and west, and by two portcullis archways across the road. Between the archways is a vaulted passage. The north arch is segmental, and of two chamfered orders, with a slot for the portcullis. The south arch was similar, but only the springers now remain. The responds to both arches have been cut away for the most part. The upper part of the vault to the passage is missing, but the springers and the two-centred, hollow-chamfered wall ribs are still in position. A square-headed doorway opens into the north-east tower on its western side, but access to the other towers is not now possible from below. The north side of the north-west tower, and the south side of the south-east tower, show the broken ends of the pre-existing town wall. The north-east and south-west towers have small square-headed windows, and the two western towers have doorways opening from the parapet walk. Let into the face of the south-west tower is a 14th-century traceried panel.

The Town Hall,¹ at the junction of High Street and Higham Green, is of two stories and a cellar, the latter now inaccessible. It is rectangular on plan, and of 14th-century origin, though very much altered at subsequent dates, including a heightening in the 15th century. Originally it extended farther east, and the presence of springers of arch ribs in the outside of the west wall suggests an arched passage way spanning the road on this side. The doorway, in the south wall, has a segmental chamfered head and continuous jambs, and above it is a panel with a helm, crest, mantling, and two beast supporters. Just west of the door is a niche with a round, moulded head and continuous jambs. Reset in the wall to the garden east of the building is a 13th-century doorway with a segmental moulded head; and a niche of the same date, with a two-centred moulded head. The fire-place, in the west wall, has been rebuilt with old material, including heavy, moulded corbels supporting the hood. The shaft to the chimney-stack has ogee, trefoiled, and cinquefoiled panelling. The interior has exposed ceiling beams and joists. Access to the first floor is by a modern

external staircase at the east end. The roof is of 15th-century date, and is in five bays. It is of king-post construction, with tie-beams, posts with four-way curved braces, central purlin, and trussed rafters.

The choir of the Chapel of the Virgin Mary, formerly part of the Franciscan Friary,² is of c. 1310–20. It measures 27 ft. by 61 ft. and has a three-sided eastern apse, 8 ft. deep. The building is now roofless and many of the dressings have fallen away. The apse has three, and each of the side walls of the choir four windows, each with remains only of two trefoiled lights and quatrefoiled spandrels in a two-centred head, chamfered jambs, moulded internal and external labels, and two-centred, hollow-chamfered rear arch. The windows in the north wall are more perished than those on the south side. Below the second window in the north wall is a 17th-century doorway. Opposite to it, in the south wall, is a 14th-century doorway, the head of which is missing. Between each of the windows are the remains of buttresses, with chamfered plinths. The west wall has a wide two-centred arch of two moulded orders, springing from grouped respond shafts with moulded caps and bases. Both sides of the arch have moulded labels with mask stops, and a moulded string, which runs round the choir at sill level, is carried round the responds. South of the south respond is a projecting stair turret enclosing a vice. The doorway on the west side has been partly rebuilt. Above it, in low relief, is carved a small cross with trefoiled arms and a stepped base. At about 8 ft. up the stair is a doorway with two-centred head which led to a pre-existing building south of the stair. The east wall has a square, quatrefoiled window, and at the top of the turret in the north wall is a doorway.

On the south side of Ferry Hill, and about 100 yards west-north-west of the Pipewell Gate, is a portion of the north-west angle of the Town Wall, probably built about 1415, when a licence was granted to fortify the town anew with walls and ditch 'of lesser circuit'. It is 2 ft. 2 in. thick and has a rough right-angle bend, and rises to a height of 7 ft. on the inner side.

The Old Workhouse at the foot of the hill, below the Strand Gate, is a small rectangular building of c. 1500 with later repair, and a big chimney-stack inserted early in the 17th century. It is built of plastered timber-framing and brick, and has exposed framing both internally and externally, including closely set vertical studding. The east wall has three blocked windows with diamond-shaped mullions. Near by is the Old Malthouse, a 17th-century rebuild incorporating medieval timbers and a rubble wall which now forms part of the north wing. The house has a considerable amount of exposed timber-framing.

The most remarkable feature of Winchelsea is the number of vaulted cellars which still exist.³ They were doubtless constructed for the storage of wine, and most of them were presumably built between 1290 and 1310, though their architectural features might suggest a later date. Generally the cellar was entered from the street by an arched stairway, and the intrados of the highest point of the cellar vault was about 1 ft. above the original street level, so that the

¹ It was only used for this purpose after it had been granted to the town in 1587 by Queen Elizabeth. Later the prison was transferred here. About 1812 it was alienated, but was restored to the town by Mr. Freshfield in 1890: Homan, *Short*

Account of Winchelsea, 20.

² The old house which incorporated parts of the domestic buildings of the friary was pulled down about 1820: Cooper, *op. cit.* 149.

³ There are about 40 of these. Space

forbids a full account of them here, but Mr. W. M. Homan is making a special study of them, and details of a few typical examples are given in the following pages.

ATTIVITÀ

REFERENCES.

A. S^t Thomas's Church and Church-yard;

- Road to Pett



Scale of Chains.

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a stair parallel with the north side. It is 29 ft. by 17 ft. 6 in., and was divided into five bays by vaulting ribs forming elliptical arches. The ribs have now disappeared with the exception of the springers, set at a height of 3 ft. 10 in. from the floor. The soffit of the vault has been plastered over. (2) Running east and west, with access at the west end by a flight of 22 steps, at the bottom of which is a two-centred chamfered arch. The cellar measures 22 ft. 3 in. by 15 ft., and was divided into five bays by vaulting ribs forming two-centred arches. Of these one rib only remains intact; of the others there are now only the springers. About 15 yards south-south-west of (1) is a medieval well, 4 ft. 3 in. in width, about 50 ft. in depth; and lined with good coursed ashlar.

The New Inn Hotel, at the south-west junction of German Street and High Street, has a cellar incorporated in modern extensions. It measures 24 ft. 9 in. by 22 ft., and though robbed of much of the early work retains sufficient to show that it was divided into four bays of quadripartite vaulting, with ribs forming segmental arches, and vaulting following the line of the ribs.

The house at the north-west junction of Mill Road and Castle Street, once part of the Salutation Inn, is, above ground, of later 15th-century origin, but has an early-14th-century vaulted cellar. The house has some ashlar walling, but is mainly of plastered timber-framing. Some of the ceiling-beams are moulded; the tie-beams are cambered; and the wall-plates have heavy curved braces. The cellar (56 ft. 2 in. by 17 ft. 3 in.) is reached by a stair with two right-angle bends, at the east end. At the foot of the first flight is a segmental pointed and moulded doorway, with continuous jambs. The cellar is roofed in three bays of quadripartite vaulting, with chamfered ribs forming two-centred arches and springing from moulded and carved corbels. In the centre of the west wall is a blocked doorway with two-centred hollow-chamfered head, and continuous jambs. On each side of it are two lockers, each with two-centred, rebated heads, and continuous jambs. A part of the vault on the south side of each bay has been cut away, probably in the 17th century, and at the same time the cellar was subdivided into three by cross walls, on the line of the transverse ribs.

On the north side of Mill Road, and a few yards west of the house called the Salutation Inn, is a house (modern) with a medieval cellar, 25 ft. 10 in. by 15 ft. 10 in., with access down a flight of steps from the street, in the north-east corner of the cellar, and having an inclosing wall on the west side. The cellar is divided into six bays by three ribs forming two-centred arches, and, at the southern end, by segmental arches taken on the east side by the inclosing wall to the stair. In this wall is a niche with a two-centred rebated head. At the north end of the cellar is a doorway with a two-centred head, opening into a short passage which appears to have led to a stair.

At the east end of the garden belonging to the house at the east corner of High Street and Castle Street is a cellar in two vaulted apartments. Access is by a stair at the western end, the walls of which have been relined with modern work. The first room, 16 ft. 10 in. by 12 ft., is divided into three bays by hollow-chamfered ribs. The partition wall between the two rooms has

a doorway with a two-centred head of three chamfered orders. The second room has three ribs dividing it into four bays. The recess at the west end is modern.

Mill Farm has a vaulted cellar, rectangular on plan, with a portion in the south-east corner screened off by a wall, in which is a square-headed window. Entrance to this apartment is through a segmental, hollow-chamfered arch. West of the cross wall the cellar is divided into two bays by a rib forming a two-centred arch. The westernmost bay has a quadripartite vault, with ribs forming segmental arches. The second bay is divided into two by a segmental cross-rib. Leading out of the north-east corner is a short passage which formerly led to a second cellar, but is now blocked. The doorway to it has a two-centred hollow-chamfered head.

Beneath the Barn on the west side of Rectory Lane is a large vaulted cellar of c. 1330 with three parallel vaulted apartments. Access is now from the western end, through what was originally a window, of which parts of the chamfered jambs remain. The first room is in two bays of quadripartite vaulting, with ribs forming two-centred arches, and springing from moulded corbels. The second room has a barrel vault, originally divided into five bays by ribs of which the springers alone remain. The third room is divided into two bays of quadripartite vaulting with wall-ribs forming two-centred arches. The vaulting is groined and does not appear to have had ribs. The original staircase, in the south-east corner, has been filled in.

The fifty years succeeding its removal to a new site are the period of Winchelsea's greatest prosperity, but the outbreak of the Hundred Years' War meant interruption of trade and interference with shipping, which was continually commandeered for the transport of troops. It also meant danger from French raids. The town escaped unscathed in 1339, when the French burnt Rye and Hastings, but on Sunday, 15 March 1360, the French captured Winchelsea and committed many atrocities in the town and neighbourhood and withdrew before the arrival of English troops.¹ Possibly the population had been so much reduced by the Black Death, which is known to have been active in East Sussex,² and by the decay of commerce, as to be insufficient for the manning of its excessive length of walls. The town had been laid out on an ambitious scale, and it is clear that many of the quarters were left practically, if not entirely, unbuilt upon and that many of the plots assigned to the original inhabitants were allowed to become derelict. The bailiff's accounts of 1342 and succeeding years³ furnish lists of 94 tenements lying uninhabited, the decayed rents of which amounted to 39s. 8½d. Most of these tenements were still described by the names of their original owners as recorded in the 1292 rent-roll.⁴ The parts which were earliest deserted were those tenements 'sub pendente montis' and also the more outlying dwellings in the south-west corner. This is illustrated by a licence in 1339 for the alienation to the Friars Preachers of 6 acres of land near the said town . . . 'because their dwelling place is now situated in a place far distant from the town (i.e. the 12 acres of the King's Green) for which reason the men of the town, and others coming to it, rarely come to that dwelling place to hear service and the alms contributed to them are smaller for this cause.'⁵ The havoc wrought by the French is

¹ Walsingham, *Hist.* i, 287; *Cal. Close*, 1360-4, pp. 15, 51.

² *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 182.

³ Mins. Accts. bdl. 1032.

⁴ Rentals and Surv. Roll 673. Printed in Inderwick, op. cit. Mins. Accts.

bdl. 1032, no. 11.

⁵ *Cal. Pat.* 1338-40, p. 239.

shown by the fact that in 1366 the bailiff returned 385 tenements, of which the decayed rents amounted to £6 5s. 9d., as lying 'waste, burnt, and uninhabited'.

The decay of the town was hastened by another French raid. In 1377 the French had again captured Rye, but the Abbot of Battle, Hamo de Offington, had hastily led reinforcements into Winchelsea and successfully defended the town;¹ but in 1380 the French surprised the town, defeated the abbot's attempt to rescue it, and sacked the place.² Six years later the French planned a descent on England on a large scale and constructed an elaborate wooden palisade with towers to be set up where they landed and used as their base camp. Four of the ships carrying the palisade were captured, with the master carpenter, by Sir William Beauchamp, Captain of Calais, and the palisade was set up round the town of Winchelsea,³ which suggests that its fortifications were then in disrepair.

In 1384 it was stated that Winchelsea, 'which was once well inhabited but by being burned by the king's enemies, and much more by the withdrawing of its burgesses, is now so desolate and almost destroyed that the proprietorship of vacant plots and tenements can scarcely be known, and the king's farm, services of ships, and other profits of the town are diminished'.⁴ Orders were given that owners of plots within the town should build upon them and live there, or else make them over to others who would do so. But these measures were evidently ineffective and in 1415 the mayor and commonalty represented that 'the site of the town is so large that all dwelling in it would not suffice for its defence if it were assaulted, without help from adjoining parts, and therefore they propose, with the king's licence, to inclose it with a wall of stone and lime and a ditch by a lesser circuit on the king's waste land and the holdings of others of the town'. The king, considering Winchelsea the key to those parts, approved the design and granted them 600 marks.⁵ For a century after this the history of the town, apart from the port, is practically a blank,⁶ but by the middle of the 16th century the harbour had fallen into decay. The corporation, though admitting the 'poor and most lamentable state' of the town in 1570,⁷ contrived to keep up appearances and to receive Queen Elizabeth in 1573 with so much dignity that, with rather sarcastic politeness, she declared that the place was a 'Little London'.⁸ After this royal visit the town went to sleep again for a couple of centuries. Apart from fishing and sea-borne trade it had never been a centre of industry; in 1763 'The English Linen Company' was established here and for some years manufactured cambrics, and this was succeeded by an establishment for making Italian crape, which lasted until 1810, when it was moved to Norwich.⁹

The early history of Winchelsea is *BOROUGH* very largely the same as that of Rye (q.v.), but the rights of the Abbot of Fécamp seem not to have been as complete over Winchelsea as they were over Rye, and the king appears to have preserved an interest in the town, for in an

agreement made between Henry I and the Count of Eu, lord of the honour of Hastings, and the Abbot of Fécamp in 1130-1 the king and the count were to have half the toll for bales (*trusselle*) and the portage of Winchelsea, and the abbot the other half. All other dues of the town were to be enjoyed by the abbot.¹⁰ Moreover, in 1176 the sheriff of Sussex rendered account to the Exchequer for 100 marks each from the 'aid' of Hastings and Winchelsea,¹¹ but no mention is made of Rye.

When strained relations with Normandy developed during John's reign, in 1204, the king committed the bailiwick of Winchelsea to Manasses de Winchelsea and the Constable of Hastings was ordered to deliver it to him and take his oath to serve the king faithfully. In 1249, when Rye and Winchelsea had been acquired from Fécamp by the Crown, the bailiwick was farmed to the barons, and the fact that the rent for Winchelsea was placed at 130 marks as against 70 marks for Rye shows its greater importance and wealth. By 1278 the farm of Winchelsea had fallen to 63 marks, four years later it was 50 marks, and next year it was lowered to 40 marks.¹² The grant of 1278 was made to the barons and bailiffs, and it was expressly stated that every man of the town should contribute towards the farm, but the poor were not to be grieved.¹³ An indication of a self-governing body in the town itself appears when in 1252 a mandate was directed to the barons of Winchelsea¹⁴ to elect from among themselves 12 of the more discreet and faithful men of the town who should advise what aid should be levied for the defence against the encroachment of the sea. The establishment of the mayoralty presumably took place as a consequence of the organization of the new town. The rental of 1292¹⁵ was drawn up by the mayor and 24 jurats and states that in July 1288 the Bishop of Ely, on behalf of the king, had delivered seisin of the land to the commonalty.¹⁶ For the first seven years no rent was to be paid to the Crown, but after that the mayor and commonalty held the town at a fee farm of £14 11s. 5½d.,¹⁷ the total of the former value of the land as extended, and represented by the rents now exacted from the building plots in the new town.

A comparison of the Rye and Winchelsea customs shows the relatively greater importance of the bailiff here, where he continued to represent the king in all financial and legal matters. He had the attachment of 'all manner of plaintiffs, as well of strangers as of indwellers'¹⁸ instead of only those of strangers as in Rye, and he and not the mayor accounted for the forfeited chattels of felons.¹⁹ Moreover, the latest extant bailiff's account, for 1372,²⁰ shows his activity in holding courts, 19 for residents in that year, yielding 26s. 3d., and an unspecified number of courts for strangers, of which the proceeds were 6s. 8d. Even in the duties of coroner the bailiff acted with the mayor and assisted in the archaic procedure of the selection of oath-helpers.²¹ Perhaps the best summary of the powers and duties preserved by the bailiff in spite of the presence of the concurrent municipal governing

wick, App. p. 218.

¹⁶ Ibid. App. p. 153. Later the number of jurats was 12.

¹⁷ Cf. *Cal. Pat.* 1413-16, p. 368.

¹⁸ Customal, in Cooper, pp. 218 et seq., and in *Suss. N. & Q.* vi, c. 13.

¹⁹ Ibid. c. 8.

²⁰ Mins. Accts. bdle. 1032, no. 13.

²¹ Customal, c. 5, 6.

¹ Walsingham, *Hist.* (Rolls Ser.), i, 341.

² Ibid. 439.

³ Knighton, *Chron.* (Rolls Ser.), ii, 212.

⁴ *Cal. Pat.* 1381-5, p. 425.

⁵ Ibid. 1413-16, pp. 273, 368.

⁶ The alleged burning of Rye and Winchelsea in 1448 or 1449 (Cooper, op. cit. 101) rests on a statement by Jeake unsupported by contemporary evidence: see *P.C.H. Suss.* ii, 143.

⁷ Cooper, op. cit. 106.

⁸ Ibid. 107.

⁹ Ibid. 121.

¹⁰ *Cal. Doc. France*, 41.

¹¹ *Pipe R. Soc.* 23 Hen. II, p. 192.

¹² *Abbr. Rot. Orig.* (Rec. Com.), i, 30, 40, 45.

¹³ *Cal. Pat.* 1272-81, p. 257.

¹⁴ Ibid. 1247-58, p. 91.

¹⁵ Rents. and Surv. R. 660; cf. *Inder-*

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body occurs in the grant of the bailiwick of the town (together with the manor of Iham) to Sir Richard Guldeford in tail male in 1506.¹ This grant includes 'the assized rent of all tenants free and bond, whether resident or not, with all lands and void places and the herbage thereof as well within the town as without, on the slope of the hillsides surrounding the town, with the custom of ships and boats fishing, called "shares",² the custom of divers merchandise putting in by water or brought by land, and the custom of wood, tan, herring, wheat, barley, malt, pease, and other grain, ale, salt, timber, pitch, cheese, featherbeds, and with the lassage, stallage, terrage, anchorage, wharfage, bulkage, tronage, passage, perquisites of courts and leets, as well of intrinsic as extrinsic pleas, and with fines, forfeitures and amercedments of fishers, brewers, and other victuallers,³ and for trespasses against the peace, with chattels of felons, fugitives, outlaws, attainted persons, effusion of blood of foreigners, wayffes, strays, infangthieff, outfangthieff and all other fees and profits due to the said office of bailiff.'

The chief activities of the mayor and jurats at the end of the 14th century⁴ were concerned with representing the town in its external relations with the other Cinque Ports at Guestling and Brotherhood meetings, and in Parliament. In 1388 the mayor was receiving a quarterly fee of 20s., but this had apparently ceased 10 years later; the fee of the town clerk was 10d. quarterly. There is no record of receipts, though in 1388 they are stated to have exceeded the expenses by £6 14s. 11d. As a wage of 12d. each per quarter is paid to a collector of 'malitot'⁵ and a collector of 'malitot carnificum' it may be judged that in addition to land rents, which were the only items of revenue of the Corporation in 1716,⁶ profits were received from such taxes on fishers and butchers.

The wide powers of the bailiff were not an unmixed blessing either to the king or to the inhabitants. On more than one occasion the barons reported serious malpractices. A most interesting petition during the reign of Edward II sets out the evil doings of Robert Paulin.⁷ The bailiff's duty was to accost every ship on arrival in harbour and exact from it the due custom for anchorage and sale of its merchandise. Paulin, however, would refrain from doing so until the ship was preparing to leave, when he would seize the master and crew and, accusing them of fraudulently making off without paying the customs, would exact exorbitant ransoms from them; e.g. from a ship of Dartmouth he took 10 marks for the alleged failure to pay the custom of 2d. Merchants on arrival had to obtain leave from the bailiff before putting up their goods for sale. Paulin, therefore, would send his sergeants, concealing their insignia of office, together with others who would entice the strangers into bargains, whereupon the sergeants would produce their rods of office and exact forfeits. In addition to these ingenious methods of extortion, which naturally frightened traders away from the town, arbitrary amercedments in court, above the customary 6d. for cases of trespass and debt, were

being inflicted upon the inhabitants themselves. In 1320, also, it was reported that on the death of a man without legal heirs, whose lands of the value of £100 should have escheated to the king, Paulin had entered into collusion with a relative of the deceased holder to share the property between them.⁸ Again in 1331 the joint bailiffs, Robert and Gervase Alard, were said to 'have behaved ill hitherto, committing extortions and hardships'.⁹ At the end of the 14th century it became the practice to make grants of the bailiwick as a reward to royal servants¹⁰ and a century later the king finally gave away all his rights in the town to Sir Richard Guldeford, as already mentioned, and the bailiwick descended with the manor of Iham (q.v.).

The early representation of Winchelsea in Parliament was similar to that of Rye¹¹ and the other Cinque Ports, though in the period of its prosperity it was often one of those ports whose mariners and merchants were summoned to special consultations with Edward III.¹² But the loss of trade at the end of the 15th century and the consequent dwindling of the population killed all the vital activity of the town. Hence the evils of monopoly and patronage appeared at a very early date in the borough corporation, for there was no strong body of popular opinion interested in resisting them. By the early 17th century any idea of free election to office had been dead for years. In 1609 it was found that 'a strong combination of a few persons' had monopolized all powers and that for many years the mayoralty had been held by only three men taking it in turns.¹³ The decree of the Lord Warden remedying this abuse was in itself a cause of difficulty at a later date. Henceforward the senior jurat was successively to be elected mayor; but this by no means insured a suitable person or even one at all interested in town affairs. In 1624 the senior jurat was found to have been living away from the town for at least 4 months and to have abandoned all his duties and obligations in the municipal administration.¹⁴ This tendency to a complete lack of knowledge or interest had been felt as early as 1527 when it had been decreed that no jurat should be elected mayor unless he had been associated with the bench for at least a year before the day of election. In 1620 the Lord Warden was pressing the readmission of a certain Mr. Robert Butler who had at one time been a jurat but had since withdrawn outside the liberty for the space of two years, thereby losing his 'year-and-day' qualification for the franchise, and had ceased to pay scot and lot and had 'published to many that he was glad that he was out of our company and that he would not for £40 be of it again'.¹⁵ The corporation naturally feared that if one so hostile to their welfare became open to holding the office of chamberlain, their very revenues would be in danger of malversation.

The claims of the Lord Warden to nominate a member for Parliament were exercised here as at Rye throughout the 17th century and by 1700 the borough

¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1494-1508, p. 472.

² For account of 'shares' see *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 265.

³ Apparently the barons had considered themselves entitled to the jurisdiction over the assizes of bread and ale and weights and measures in the reign of Edward I, but even at that date the bailiffs seem to have established their claim by prescription: *Anct. Pet.* 10928.

⁴ Corporation account rolls: Cooper, 203-10, quoted from Dering MSS.

⁵ This is probably similar to the maltod on fishing boats paid in Rye. (See above.)

⁶ For details of these see Cooper, op. cit. 227-37.

⁷ Ch. Parl. Proc. file 66, no. 24. We are indebted for this reference to Miss M. V. Clarke.

⁸ Riley, *Plac. Parl.* 258. Cf. Add. MS. 6344, col. 137.

⁹ *Cal. Fine*, 1331, p. 213. The fraudulent bailiffs, as well as Paulin, acted for Rye as well, but Winchelsea alone is

roused to complain.

¹⁰ e.g. *Cal. Pat.* 1374-7, p. 346; 1384-5, p. 370.

¹¹ See article on Rye above.

¹² e.g. *Cal. Close*, 1327-30, p. 237; 1337-9, p. 129; 1341-3, p. 519.

¹³ Cooper, 211.

¹⁴ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii, App. iv, 164. Decree of 1527 quoted by Hastings in reply to request for advice.

¹⁵ Cooper, 214.

had fallen completely under Treasury patronage. The Treasury nominees were returned, though not without some contested elections, until 1768, when a Mr. Arnold Nesbit, having established a large private interest by purchases of land, successfully defeated them. In course of the disputes connected with this election not only were many evils revealed in the state of the franchise and the 20 years *ne plus ultra* rule established for the peaceable possession of it, but the expenses for the defence of the corporation were so great that the town clerk pawned the ancient custumal, which had never since been recovered.¹ Mr. Nesbit eventually sold his interest in the borough for £15,000² and the Earl of Darlington became patron until the borough was disfranchised in 1832.

No seal of Old Winchelsea is known. The *SEALS*³ existing seal was presumably made when the new town was founded. The obverse, which closely resembles that of Pevensey and may perpetuate an earlier seal, bears a ship with sail furled; on the forecastle is a plain banner; on the stern-castle are two men with trumpets, and below them a man holding the steering-oar. A sailor is climbing the rigging and four others haul on ropes. In the field is a shield of the leopards of England. Legend: SIGILLVM : BARONVM : DOMINI : REGIS : ANGLIE : DE : WINCHELLESE. Reverse:⁴ a slender tower in which are two persons standing before a seated figure, above is a niche containing a figure, and on the battlements a banner with 3 chevrons⁵ and a watchman holding a lantern. Dexter, two crocketed gabled niches, each containing St. Giles with his hind; on one gable is a large bird, behind the other a slender spire. Sinister, three gables, containing the murder of St. Thomas of Canterbury, and a central spire; above is a shield of England. Below are houses, and in base waves. Legend: EGIDIO : THOME : LAUDVM : PLEBS : CANTICA : P[RO]ME : NE : SIT : IN : ANGARIA : GREX : SVVS : AMNE : VIA.

The mayor's seal, 15th century, has the arms of the Cinque Ports between three wyverns (?). Legend: SIGILLUM : MAIORATUS : VILLE : DE : WYNCHELSE.

The oldest mace, c. 1485, is of silver with a heavy iron core, 14½ in. long; on the flat top of the bell-shaped head are the arms of Henry VII; at the lower end are five open flanges, each with a Tudor rose. The second mace, 13 in. long, is of c. 1550 and bears the Tudor arms and has three small scrolled flanges. The serjeant's mace, 5½ in. long, has a bell-shaped head on which is a shield, sable a lion argent; on the top is a shield with the arms of Carryll and a baron's coronet. There is a long straight 'moot-horn' of brass, of uncertain date.⁶

The estuary at the mouth of the *THE PORT* Rivers Rother, Brede, and Tillingham, with the Wainway Creek, was known from early times as the Camber (*Camera, La Chambre*) and formed a safe, commodious, and convenient harbour

for ships crossing from Normandy or sailing up the English Channel. During the 13th and 14th centuries Winchelsea, both Old and New, played a prominent part in the national organization of the naval forces.⁷ The proportion which it provided towards the contingent of 21 ships demanded from the Western Ports was from quite early days the largest of the three. In 1229 Winchelsea provided 10 ships,⁸ and in the levy of 50 ships called out by Edward I at the opening of the war with France Winchelsea's contribution of 13 ships was the largest of any of the Ports.⁹ It also provided harbourage for two of the king's galleys in 1205¹⁰ and in 1235.¹¹ Under John, moreover, it was a royal dockyard, over £1,260 being disbursed in 1213 for the building of 10 galleys and 10 boats, and for work on the king's great ship *Deulabencie*, 9 new galleys and 16 boats and repairs to 4 old galleys.¹² Two more galleys were built here in 1233,¹³ and two 'skummers' in 1349.¹⁴

Winchelsea was the port for the assembling of the royal forces in 1297¹⁵ (when the famous *Confirmatio Cartarum* dispute occurred), and in 1303 Gervase Alard, one of the family which took such a leading part in the life of the town, became Captain and Admiral of the fleet.¹⁶ In the 14th century it was one of the principal ports of embarkation for France and numerous gatherings of the fleet took place in its harbour, notably in 1341,¹⁷ and in 1350, when the famous 'Battle of the Spaniards' was fought within sight of the town.¹⁸ Even as late as 1433 vessels of 200 tons and under were ordered to be at Winchelsea for transport purposes,¹⁹ and five years later Sir Richard Woodville and other leaders with 1,000 troops crossed from Winchelsea to Honfleur,²⁰ but during the 15th century the port was becoming gradually less serviceable and Winchelsea shipping was no longer of much size. Yet it continued to fit out a small contingent when called upon, and in 1524 provided four ships with a total of 96 tons and 15 mariners.²¹ This was its last effort, except for six 'hoys' in 1544.²²

The Act of 1548 for the amendment of the Camber, by prohibiting under heavy penalties the dumping of ballast, may have assisted to preserve the harbour, but this had practically become the harbour of Rye; the creeks leading to Winchelsea were silting up, and in 1587 in answer to a royal inquiry it was stated that there were 'no ships, captains or mariners belonging to the town but only one sailor named William Bucston'.²³

From early times there was a light maintained at the mouth of the harbour, and in 1261 the barons were given permission to levy a due of 2d. on every ship entering the harbour, for its upkeep.²⁴ In 1593 Francis Bolton, Recorder of Rye, stated that he had seen written record that there was a hermitage on Camber beach in the parish of St. Thomas of Winchelsea, dedicated to St. Anthony, for the maintaining

¹ Ibid. 217.

² Inderwick, 135.

³ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* i, 21-5; *B.M. Cat. of Seals*, ii, 209-11.

⁴ The present matrix of the reverse is a modern copy, the original being in the hands of 'Mr. W. J. Denne' in 1850: Cooper, op. cit. 200.

⁵ Probably for Lewknor; Sir Roger Lewknor held property in the new town (ibid. 48).

⁶ Jewitt, *Corporation Plate*, ii, 379.

⁷ See above under 'The Cinque Ports':

also 'The Naval Administration and The Raising of Fleets under John and Henry III': *The Mariner's Mirror*, xv, 1929.

⁸ Burrows, *Cinque Ports*, 91. Cf. *Cal. Pat.* 1225-32, p. 370; 9 shipowners from Winchelsea mentioned.

⁹ Burrows, loc. cit.

¹⁰ *Rot. Litt. Claus.* 33.

¹¹ *Cal. Close*, 1234-7, p. 163.

¹² Pipe R. 14 John.

¹³ Ibid. 18 Hen. III.

¹⁴ Cooper, op. cit. 72-3.

¹⁵ *Cal. Close*, 1296-1301, p. 100.

¹⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1301-7, p. 111.

¹⁷ *Cal. Close*, 1340-3, p. 263. For a list of Winchelsea shipping, mid 14th century, see *Anct. Pet.* 10516, 10517: 22 ships ranging from 60-180 tons, with one of 240 tons.

¹⁸ Cooper, op. cit. 74-9.

¹⁹ *Cal. Pat.* 1429-36, p. 277.

²⁰ Kingsford, *Chron. of London*, 145-6.

²¹ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, iv, 398.

²² Ibid. xix (1), 491.

²³ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* cxcviii, 8.

²⁴ *Cal. Pat.* 1258-66, p. 140.

of a light for the harbour, the (? last) hermit's name being William Woodhouse. Since the decay of the hermitage—which other witnesses said then lay half a mile out to sea—a house had been built for the same purpose.¹ This hermitage was in existence by 1267, when the king granted protection to the brethren of the hospital of St. Anthony upon the port of Winchelsea;² and it was still standing in December 1536, when the men of the admiral of Sluys 'burnt the hermitage of the Camber in despite and hewed an image of St. Anthony with their swords, bidding it call upon St. George for help'.³

National customs accounts practically do not exist for the middle of the 13th century. The early bailiffs' accounts of Winchelsea for the last years of the reign of Henry III are therefore valuable for the light they throw on conditions at this date.⁴ The local customs dues which appear in these accounts were a small levy in right of the lordship over the port, such as 2d. for each ship anchoring in the port and taxes of 2d. for every last of herrings sold or 1d. per cask of wine—dues on all transactions of buying or selling but applying only to non-freemen of the port. A comparison of the proceeds of these taxes shows an immense falling off in trade between the end of the reign of Henry III and the middle of the next century. Whereas in 1266 the customs of the town amounted to about £10 and the shares on fishing to about £27, in 1365 the two together only came to 44s. 9d.⁵ The war with France and the increasing boldness of French pirates combined with the gradual deterioration of the harbour to slow down the normal activities. Nevertheless throughout the reign of Edward III Winchelsea ranked among those of the south coast ports to which the royal mandates for the regulation of the wool trade were sent, whether officially recognized as home staple ports or not.⁶ In 1378, however, Chichester supplanted Winchelsea as the chief Sussex port; Rye had superseded it in the matter of export of timber; and the burning of the town in 1360 and 1380 gave a final blow to its prosperity, from which the silting up of the harbour in the 15th century gave it no chance to recover.

During the period of its prosperity Winchelsea played a prominent part in the wine trade. Among other incidental references, we find 104 casks of wine being sent from there to Dover in 1242,⁷ and the bailiffs' accounts between 1260 and 1272 show that a large number of ships from the ports of southern France and northern Spain brought wine from the Bordeaux district, to which may certainly be added many of Winchelsea and Rye that paid no dues and were therefore not recorded. Manasses of Winchelsea who farmed the town in 1204 was a vintner,⁸ and several of the family of Alard followed the same trade.⁹ The numerous cellars built in the new town were mainly for the storage of wine, and the Bordeaux accounts of 1306–7, which show that out of 605 sailings

just over half were English ships, record the names of 15 ships of Winchelsea, ranging from 83 to 190 tons.¹⁰ Wine for Henry V's expedition to France in 1415 was to be obtained at Winchelsea;¹¹ but by this date the trade had dwindled, and it never recovered.

A detailed examination of Sussex trade¹² in the 14th century has shown that there was a far greater amount of alien trade with the East Sussex ports than with those farther west, except in the wool trade. This East Sussex trade was mainly concentrated at Winchelsea, which not only had a good harbour and communication inland by the Rother but was convenient of access for the Flemish and French traders. Stated in general terms, the exports consisted of wood, dairy produce, and salt, and the imports of fish, cloth, corn, wax, and wine. The import of fish may seem curious, but Winchelsea was one of the main sources drawn upon by the royal purveyor and there were constant orders in the 13th century for such items as 1,000 plaice¹³ or 3,000 whiting¹⁴ for the royal household. The character of the surrounding country, forest land, and marsh pasture, explains not only the main exports but also the necessity for the import of corn. The import trade was naturally the more varied, for at this stage of the development of English trade raw materials had to pay for a large assortment of manufactured or luxury articles. Earthenware, mirrors, cups, leather, fruits, oils, and spices were frequently brought to be sold in Winchelsea.¹⁵ By the middle of the 14th century, however, English cloth was beginning to take a large share in the export trade and the later accounts show a certain amount of activity in this direction.

As at Rye so at Winchelsea fishing provided the chief occupation of the inhabitants and one of the main sources of the town's wealth. The same organization in the 4 fishing fleets in the year, and the yearly visit to Yarmouth are found at Winchelsea as well.¹⁶ But apart from fishing and trading activities there are few signs of any other occupations in medieval Winchelsea except for those connected with the ordinary necessities of life. The rental of 1292 does, however, show several tanners, and a tanyard long continued at the foot of Strand Hill. A market existed from an early date, as in 1200 the Abbot of Fécamp paid 5 marks for moving it out of the cemetery.¹⁷ In 1215 it was held on Thursdays outside the town, on the fee of John de Gestling, but orders were given for it to be moved close to the church of St. Thomas.¹⁸ By 1262 the market-place was endangered by the sea and a new site had to be found.¹⁹ The site and day of the market in the new town are presumably marked by the name 'Monday's Market' attached to land south of the church, but it was held on Saturday in 1792,²⁰ soon after which date it ceased. A fair, held on 14 May (old Holy Cross Day),²¹ had by 1850 'dwindled to a small pedlary and ginger-bread affair'²² and soon afterwards disappeared.

In order to build the new town of Winchelsea,

¹ Exch. Dep. Mich. 35–6 Eliz. no. 7.

² *Cal. Pat.* 1266–72, p. 91. The house of St. Anthony beyond the harbour is mentioned in a deed of about this date: *Camp. Ch.* (B.M.), xxv, 8.

³ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xii (1), 718 (4).

⁴ Mins. Accts. bdle. 1031, nos. 19–26.

⁵ *Ibid.* 19; 1032, no. 11.

⁶ e.g. *Cal. Close*, 1346–9, p. 123.

⁷ *Liberate R.* ii, 128.

⁸ *Pipe R.* 1 *John* (Pipe R. Soc.), 126.

⁹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxi, 129, 133; Exch. K.R. Accts. 375, no. 20.

¹⁰ Exch. K.R. Accts. 161, no. 3. For these details we are indebted to Mr. W. M. Homan.

¹¹ Wylie, *Reign of Henry V*, i, 480.

¹² R. A. Pelham, *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxx, lxxi.

¹³ *Cal. Close*, 1247–51, p. 54.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* 1234–7, p. 402.

¹⁵ Customs Accts. (P.R.O.).

¹⁶ Cf. Mins. Accts. bdle. 1031, no. 19. There is also mention of 'saltfare'—'De scaris saltfare' which disappears in later accounts.

¹⁷ *Pipe R.* 2 *John* (Pipe R. Soc.), 248.

¹⁸ *Rot. Litt. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), 237.

¹⁹ *Cal. Close*, 1261–4, p. 148.

²⁰ *Roy. Com. Market Rights*, 211.

²¹ Mins. Accts. bdle. 1032, no. 2.

²² Cooper, *op. cit.* 117.

Edward I bought up the rights of William de Grandison and Sybil his wife in the manor of *HIGHAM* or *IHAM*.¹ The liberty of the town has therefore ever since been regarded as lying within this manor² and the administrative history of the two has been closely connected. At least from 1317 the bailiwick of the manor was in the same hands as the town³ and this arrangement continued until nearly the end of the century, when the king began to lease the manor for terms of 5 or 10 years.⁴ At one time much of the manor had been submerged by the sea, but in the 15th century its value began to recover and the rent was raised from 13s. 4d. to 21s. 8d.⁵ In the reign of Henry VII it was reunited with the bailiwick in the hands of the Guldeford family, the terms of the grant including 'the increase of the sea there'.⁶ In 1663 Edward Guldeford sold it to John Carryll⁷ and it was still in this family (with certain other joint holders apparently) in 1722 when a dispute about the inning of the Outland or Pett Salts elicited an inquiry into the extent of Winchelsea liberty and its connexion with any of the surrounding manors.⁸ In 1762 the whole estate, including the bailiwick, was sold to the Earl of Egremont, but in 1787 was exchanged for the manor of Wiggonholt with Sir William Ashburnham, who already held land adjoining the liberty of the town. In 1834 it was purchased by H. B. Curteis, in whose family it descended. The information produced by the witnesses in 1722 showed a general consensus of opinion that the liberty of the town lay wholly within the manor of Iham, but there were some rumours of a court held for the manor of Pett and a heriot paid to the manor of Stonelink, which claimed rights within the liberty.

The most famous of all the families connected with Winchelsea was that of the Alards, who played a leading part in the period of the town's highest prosperity.⁹ The earliest mention of the family was in a deed of 1197,¹⁰ and by the time of the migration of the inhabitants to the new site, the family had won a leading position, as is testified by their numerous holdings in the 1292 rent roll. Gervase Alard was mayor in 1294-5,¹¹ and Thomas, and later Gervase, were keepers of the town about this time,¹² one Gervase being Admiral, not only of the Cinque Ports, but of all the South Coast fleet.¹³ They were always prominent as shipowners in the 13th and 14th centuries. Another family which played a very active part in the early history of the town was that of Finch,¹⁴ who originally held the name of Herberd. Members of this family have served the town as bailiffs, mayors, and members of Parliament. In 1628 the town received a compliment from it, for the widow of Sir Moyle Finch and heiress of Sir Thomas Heneage, being advanced to the rank of countess, took her title from the town and

became Countess of Winchelsea, which title has been perpetuated in the Heneage-Finch family.¹⁵

The church of *ST. THOMAS OF CHURCH CANTERBURY* was conceived on an ambitious scale and only a portion of the original design exists complete. This portion consists of the chancel, 69 ft. by 28 ft. 6 in., north and south chapels, each 53 ft. by 19 ft., and north-east vestry. There is also a crypt, 14 ft. 6 in. by 26 ft. 6 in., below the sanctuary, a porch of a later period at the west of the infilling of the chancel arch, and a bell turret at the west end of the north aisle. The original design included a central crossing, 31 ft. by 28 ft., north and south transepts, each 31 ft. 6 in. by 36 ft., a nave with north and south aisles, and, probably, two western towers. All the dimensions are internal. The transepts are fragmentary, the walls of the south transept standing at a greater height than those of the north, but of the nave or its aisles or the towers nothing now remains above ground level. The walls are built of coursed stonework, faced both inside and outside, and the gable roofs of the chancel and chapels are covered with tiles.

The existing portion of the fabric was built during the first quarter of the 14th century. It is highly probable that the whole design was never finished, but was arrested through lack of funds and the gradual decay of the town itself.¹⁶ It would appear, however, that the walls of the transepts, or at least those of the south transept, had risen to sufficient height to be covered in, either by a permanent or, as was apparently done, by a temporary roof: for in the 15th century a doorway was placed in the south wall of the south transept and a porch built in front of it. The present porch was built in the 16th century. About 1770 a vestry, with internal stone walls, was formed at the west end of the north chapel and the present bell turret erected above it. The fabric has been restored at various periods between 1850 and 1933, windows, which had been bricked up, have been reopened and repaired and the parapets and roofs have been generally restored. In 1910 the vestry in the north chapel was removed and the original vestry at the north of the sanctuary was rebuilt.

The east window of the chancel is of five cinquefoiled lights with geometrical tracery, inserted in 1850 to replace one of 15th-century date. In the north wall there is a window of two cinquefoiled lights with geometrical tracery in a pointed head. The rear arch is extended to include a blind panel on either side of the window and rests upon shafts with moulded capitals and bases, the whole being richly moulded and decorated. Opposite in the south wall there is a similar window. Both had been bricked up, but were opened out and their decayed tracery renewed in 1850. All the windows of the church are of this

¹ See above. The manor had been granted to them by Sybil's father, Sir John Tregoz. It does not appear as a manor before this date; much of the land was held of the lords of Icklesham, Wickham, and Pett, but the services due from bondmen to 'the manor of Hyham' are mentioned: Rentals and Surveys (P.R.O.), no. 661.

² In 1560 it was stated that 'the town of Newe Winchelsey is builded only upon the manor of Iham': K.R. Memo. R. Mich. 3 Eliz. m. 267.

³ *Cal. Fine R.* 1307-19, p. 322. Terms

of grant indicate that it had been so held by previous bailiffs.

⁴ e.g. *ibid.* 1383-91, p. 356.

⁵ *Cal. Pat.* 1436-41, p. 511.

⁶ *Ibid.* 1494-1509, p. 472, referring to grant of 1486.

⁷ See details of descent, Cooper, 168.

⁸ Exch. Deps. 9 Geo. I, Mich. 36.

⁹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxi, 126-41.

¹⁰ Deed on view in Rye Museum.

¹¹ Add. Chart. 20168-9.

¹² *Cal. Pat.* 1301-7, p. 469.

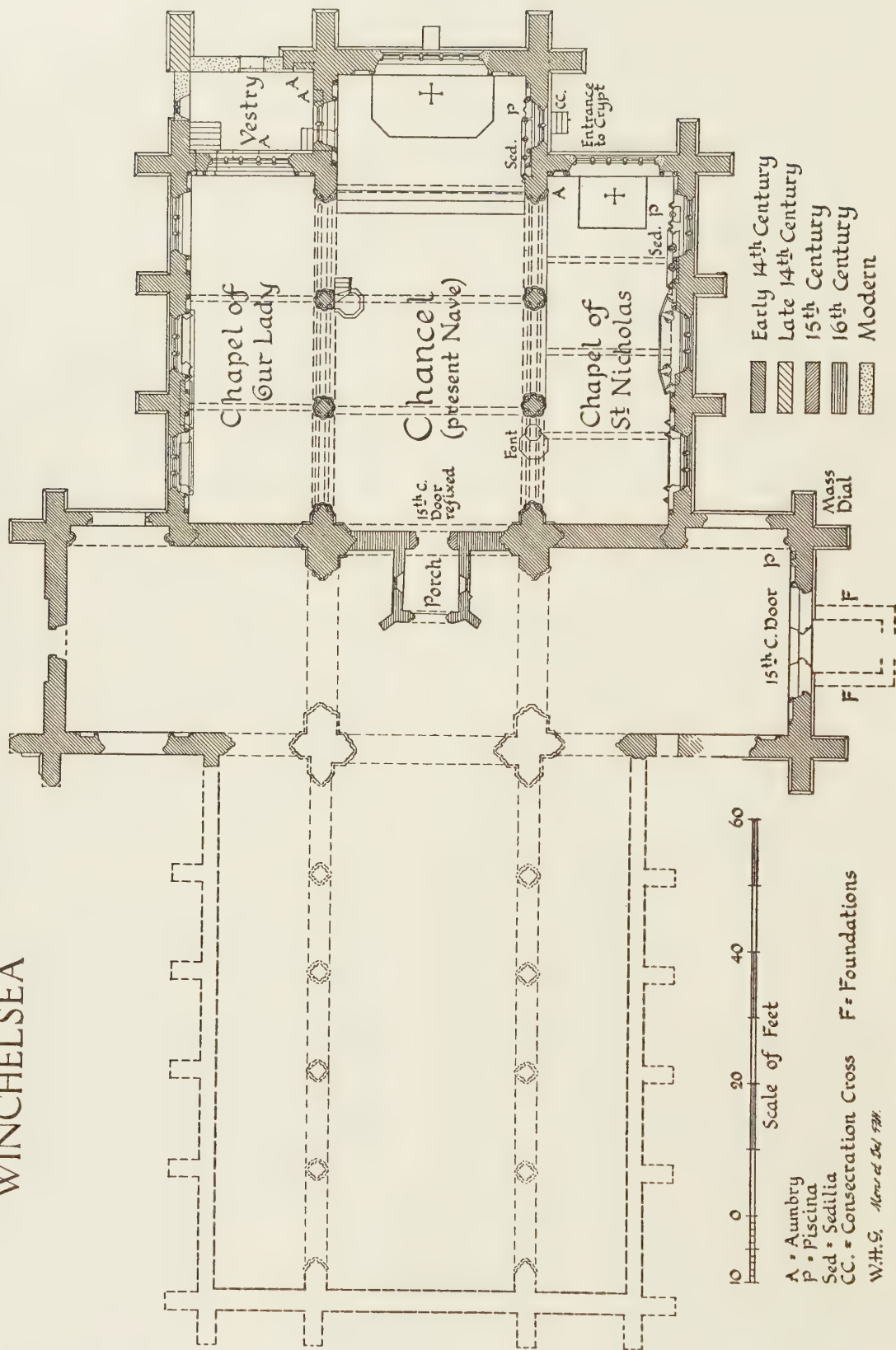
¹³ *Ibid.* p. 111.

¹⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxx, 28, disproving their mythical descent from Fitz-Herberts of John's reign. In 1341, when Henry Fynch was mayor of Winchelsea, John son of Vincent Herberd proved his identity with John 'Vynch': L.T.R. Memo. R. East. 15 Edw. III.

¹⁵ Cooper, 161.

¹⁶ It is improbable that the French raiders should have wasted time demolishing the west end of the church and yet left the east end, which shows no evidence of injury, unharmed.

PARISH CHURCH of ST. THOMAS À BECKET WINCHELSEA





WINCHELSEA CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH, 1784
(From a drawing in the Burrell Collections)



WINCHELSEA CHURCH, FROM THE NORTH

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

the chancel arcades. They also have bands about mid-way up the shafts. The respond on the south rises to within 3 ft. of the springing of the arch; that on the north, which has been rebuilt, exists only to 4 ft. above the band.

The transepts are each of two bays, one in line with the chapels and the other projecting beyond the main body of the church. The north bay of the north chapel has the jambs and arch of a large window on the east within a deep recess which rises from the floor. The jambs of the recess are enriched with shafts of two orders with moulded capitals, bands, and bases and support pointed arches. The north wall exists only to the height of a central doorway with a pointed head of two moulded orders and a label with curled stops. In the west wall are the remains of a window with side panels, similar to those in the chapels. Only the lower portion of the panels remains. Farther west is the lower part of a moulded respond of the arch between the transept and the north aisle of the nave.

The south bay of the south transept has an east window like that in the north transept, retaining some of the fine geometrical tracery. In the south wall there is a piscina complete and unrestored. It has a trefoiled head, moulded jambs, a label with curled stops, and a small shelf. The basin is cut into nine foils. In the middle of the south wall is a doorway of 15th-century date. It has a pointed arch in a square head and very weather-worn mouldings. Above the doorway are the lower parts of the jambs of a large window, the space between the jambs being filled with later blocking containing the sill of a smaller window. On this infilling outside can be seen the lines of the weather-course of a roof and in front of the doorway are the remains of a porch, still standing to the height of about 1 ft. 4 in., probably built in the 15th century. The west wall of the transept is very fragmentary. Of its window only the south panel with a jamb remains. At the north end of the wall is the lower part of a respond of the arch between the transept and the south aisle of the nave.

Nothing remains above ground of the nave or its aisles,¹ but excavations made in 1850 led to the placing of a sundial on approximately the site of the west wall.

The font is modern. At the west end of the north chapel are three large monuments, each containing in a recess a table tomb on which lies an effigy in Sussex marble. Over each recess is a cinquefoiled arch with double cusping and a crocketed gable with unpierced foliated spandrels, all extensively repaired. The fronts of the tombs are panelled and have small canopies. These three monuments form one architectural group and were evidently made for the effigies they contain.² The effigies all date from the latter half of the 13th century. The easternmost is of a young man, without headdress, in long robe and buckled shoes. The middle effigy is of a lady in wimple, veil, kirtle, and mantle; her feet rest on a hound; one hand holds up the edge of her mantle while the other is on the fastening of her mantle cord. The third effigy is of a knight in chain armour and surcoat; his head rests upon cushions and his feet upon a lion; his right hand is upon the pommel of his sword, which is inscribed

with the sacred monogram, and he has a shield over his left arm. His left leg is crossed over his right leg. Below the middle window in the south chapel is a monument of about 1315 to an unknown warrior, probably one of the Alards. The effigy is in complete mail and surcoat, his head rests upon cushions, with angel supporters, and at his feet is a lion; his legs are crossed and in his hands he holds a heart, his gauntlets falling back for this purpose. He lies on a table tomb in a high recess with richly cusped arch and crocketed gable and diaper work at the back. Flanking the recess on either side is a niche with a separate gable. The front of the tomb is panelled, the panelling being carried across below the niches. To the west of this monument is another, of about 1330. The effigy lies on a table tomb in a plain arched recess surmounted by a gable. The recess is flanked on either side by a niche with pedestal and canopy for a statue. The monument has been repaired but much original work is preserved. The front of the tomb is decorated with small niches with pedestals and canopies. The effigy itself is in complete mail and surcoat; at his head are angel supporters and at his feet is a lion; his legs are crossed and his hands are in attitude of prayer. He has a sword and a 'heater' shield on which are the arms of Oxenbridge.³ The supporters are mutilated and a portion of the shield is broken away. On the east wall of the south chapel is a mural monument to Margaret Godfrey, died 1611. On the floor of the chancel is a brass figure of a civilian, of about 1440, in long gown: the feet are missing; a slab with a brass inscription to Margaret Jorden, died 1636; and two other slabs with indents. In the north chapel are two slabs, in fragments, with indents. In the south chapel is a slab with indents for a floriated cross with a figure in its centre, and an incised marginal inscription, the lettering being well preserved and in Lombardic capitals:—REYNAUL ALARD QU MORUDE LE XV JOUR D'APRIL LAN MCCCLIIII GIST ICI DIEU DE SALME EIT MERCI QU PUR SALME PRIERA L JOURS DE PARDOÏ AVERA. There is also in this chapel another slab with indents of about the same date.

When the Perpendicular window in the east wall of the chancel was taken down in 1850 most of the painted glass it contained was sold. Some of it, however, was found in the belfry about 1890. The fragments were pieced together and are now in the north window of the sanctuary. Of the modern stained glass in the church, the window on the south of the sanctuary is of the 19th century, and the others, designed by Mr. Strachan, were presented in 1933 by Lord Blanesburgh. In the north chapel is a 17th-century oak chest. Built into the wall between the sedilia and the first monument in the south chapel is a bracket with a carved crouching figure. On the east wall of this chapel outside is a consecration cross. On a bracket on the south of the sanctuary there is a mutilated vested image of a lady, found during the restoration of the vestry. On the floor of the south aisle are some encaustic tiles of 14th-century date.

In the turret there is one bell by R. Phelps 1708. There is also a small bell inscribed 'Soli Deo Gloria 1702.'⁴

The plate⁵ consists of a silver cup of Elizabethan

bendlets (or, on a bend) three lozenges.

⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi. There was a detached bell-tower, west of the church, still standing in 1790: Cooper, op. cit. 129.

⁵ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lv, 207.

¹ The foundation-stones are said to have been taken for the repair of Rye harbour, c. 1790: Cooper, op. cit. 129.

² It has been suggested that the effigies were brought from the old church.

³ According to Leland (*Itinerary*, ed.

Toulmin Smith), the Oxenbridges adopted the arms of the Alards; but there is no evidence in support of this, and the only known occurrence of the Alard arms is on the seal of a deed of 1344, recently sold at Sotheby's, where they are: between two

pattern of about 1568 but with no hall marks; a silver paten on a foot, of 1726; a silver paten of 1807; and a Sheffield-plated flagon.

The registers begin in 1655, but down to 1690 they are a compilation by Dr. John Harris, who was instituted in that year.¹

Patronage of both the churches of *ADVOWSONS* St. Thomas and St. Giles belonged to the abbey of Fécamp until the resumption of the town of Winchelsea in 1247. The king kept the presentation in his own hands until in 1462 he granted the churches of St. Thomas the Martyr, St. Giles, and St. Leonard, at and within the town of Winchelsea to William Hastings.² But this grant does not appear to have been effective, for the king continued to present to the livings³ until the grant of the town with the manor of Iham to Sir Richard Guldeford by Henry VII, which grant included the advowson of the two churches.⁴ From that time until the middle of the 19th century the right was annexed to the manor. In 1834 it was sold to James Eldridge West, on whose death in 1851 it was bought by John Patch,⁵ and it is now in the hands of the Rev. J. Patch. In 1291 St. Thomas was valued at £10 13s. 4d. and St. Giles at £6 13s. 4d.;⁶ in 1535 the former had a clear value of £6 13s. 4d. beyond various charges on it and St. Giles only 26s. 8d.⁷ The latter church was struck by lightning and burnt down on 28 December 1413;⁸ it was probably not rebuilt, the living becoming a sinecure and no new appointments being made after 1500.

There were two chantries in the church of St. Thomas. Alard's Chantry was founded in the chapel of St. Mary in 1312 by Stephen Alard.⁹ He gave £200 to the Abbot of Langdon, Kent, to maintain two chaplains with a salary of £10. Further endowments were made later by other persons, and apparently Robert son of John Alard transferred the chantry to the chapel of St. Nicholas in the south aisle of the chancel and granted to the Abbot of Battle lands charged with an annual payment of £20 for four

chaplains.¹⁰ By 1535 only one chaplain was maintained, at a salary of £13 6s. 8d., and £3 6s. 8d. was paid by the abbey to the patron, William Colepeper. On the suppression of the chantries most of the land came to Sir Anthony Browne.¹¹ The other chantry, called Godfray's or Farnecombe's Chantry in the north aisle, known as the chapel of St. Mary, was founded and endowed by Maline, or Maud, Farnecombe in 1477 and again in 1481¹² in the memory of John Godfray and his wife, her father and mother, and of her husband Simon Farnecombe. The patronage of this chantry belonged to Battle Abbey and passed among other abbey property to Sir Anthony Browne in 1539.¹³ After the suppression of the chantries the lands, valued at over £16 clear yearly, were apparently bought by Sir William Herbert.¹⁴

The church of St. Leonard of Iham was valued at only £4 13s. 4d. in 1291;¹⁵ in 1404 it was among the benefices so impoverished as to be excused taxation.¹⁶ The advowson belonged to the abbey of Fécamp and was granted with the other possessions of that house to the abbey of Syon, by whom the last known presentation, in 1484, was made.¹⁷ It is probable that the church fell into decay soon after this date. A tradition, recorded by Lambarde, says that the image of St. Leonard in this church held a vane, which women, making an offering, would turn in the direction from which a wind was required to bring their men home.¹⁸

Elizabeth Lucy Fuller's Charity, *CHARITY* founded by will proved at Lewes on 20 July 1914, is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 30 March 1917 which directs that the charity shall be administered by the pastor and deacons of the Tabernacle Chapel in Cambridge Road, Hastings, and provides that the income be applied in supporting, maintaining, and carrying on the teaching of firm Protestant truths in the town of Winchelsea in such ways as the trustees think most effectual. The dividends, about £12, are paid to the minister for evangelical services.

¹ Cooper, op. cit. 143.

² *Cal. Pat.* 1461-7, p. 137.

³ e.g. *ibid.* 182; 1470, p. 210.

⁴ Cooper, op. cit. 169.

⁵ Add. MS. 39469, fol. 343.

⁶ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 136.

These values may refer to the churches before their removal from Old Winchelsea.

⁷ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), i, 345.

⁸ *Eulog. Hist.* (Rolls Ser.), iii, 421.

⁹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* viii, 212; *Year Bks.* (Selden Soc.), xii, 128.

¹⁰ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxvi, 12.

¹¹ *Ibid.* 9, 12, 32.

¹² *Cal. Pat.* 1476-85, pp. 57, 249.

¹³ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (ii), g.

619 (3).

¹⁴ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxvi, 102-4.

¹⁵ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 136.

¹⁶ *Bp. Rob. Rede's Reg.* (Suss. Rec. Soc.),

40.

¹⁷ Cooper, op. cit. 191.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

THE HUNDRED OF BALDSLOW

CONTAINING THE PARISHES OF

CROWHURST
HOLLINGTON

ORE

ST. LEONARDS¹
WESTFIELD

THE Hundred of Baldslow at the time of Domesday included Filsham, Hollington, Cortesley, Westfield, Crowhurst, and Wilting. It then belonged to the Count of Eu² and followed the descent of the rape (q.v.).³ By the middle of the 13th century the vill of Ore and the tithing of Legh or Inlegh make their appearance,⁴ and from 1296 onwards the hundred was divided for purposes of taxation into Ore, Inlegh, Wilting, and Crowhurst.⁵ The muster for the rape of Hastings for 1539 giving the totals of armed men provided by each township shows Ore assessed at 40; Crowhurst at 35; Wilting at 30; and Inlegh at 28.⁶ The constitution of the hundred remained unchanged certainly until the middle of the 17th century.⁷ By 1662 Hollington had replaced Wilting, and Westfield 'Inlegh', and parts of the parishes of St. Leonards and Battle were included.⁸ By 1835 part of the parish of St. Mary in the Castle, Hastings, was in the hundred, and the courts were then being held in Battle parish.⁹ They have now been discontinued.

¹ The history of St. Leonards is treated under the Borough of Hastings, with the exception of the rectorial manor, of which the descent is given under Hollington.

² *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 397.

³ Assize R. 923, m. 5; *ibid.* 915, m. 6; 921, m. 4. In 1569 John Pelham obtained permission to grant the hundred to trustees for the use of his wife Judith for life: Pat. 11 Eliz. pt. 3, m. 9.

⁴ Assize R. 909a, m. 35 d.; *ibid.* 924, m. 44.

⁵ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, 4, 212, 323.

⁶ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv, pt. 1, 298.

⁷ Add. MS. 33175, fol. 96.

⁸ Hearth Tax: Lay Subs. 258, no. 21. There were 9 houses in the 'part of Battell.'

⁹ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 431.



CROWHURST: RUINS OF THE MANOR HOUSE



CROWHURST CHURCH, FROM THE NORTH-EAST: 1802
(From a drawing in the Sharpe Collection)

BALDSLOW HUNDRED

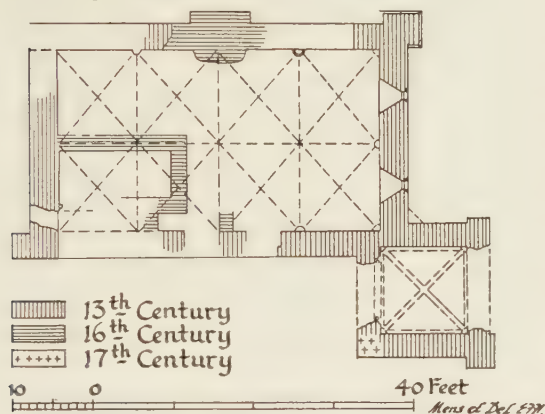
CROWHURST

Croghyrste (viii cent.); Croherst (xi cent.); Cruherst (xiii cent.); Crawehurst (xiv cent.).

The parish of Crowhurst is situated immediately south of Battle. The Powder Mill stream forms the boundary between Crowhurst and Catsfield for a considerable distance and then flows due south through the parish to join the Combe Haven, dividing Crowhurst from Bexhill. The greatest height (420 ft.) is attained in the north of the parish, where Crowhurst Park commands extensive land and sea views. Crowhurst has a station on the Tunbridge Wells and Hastings branch of the Southern Railway. The church is in the centre of the village, and in the churchyard there is a yew tree of great size and antiquity. To the south of the church are the ruins of the old Manor House, an interesting relic of a once very beautiful building. It was described by W. S. Walford in 1854¹ when the walls appear to have been in much the same condition as at present. He attributed the building to Walter de Scotney who held the manor in the time of Henry III and was executed in 1259 for poisoning the Earl of Gloucester. It was apparently rebuilt or enlarged by John, Earl of Richmond, between 1357 and 1360.²

The remains apparently constituted the north cross-

Ruins of Manor House, Crowhurst



wing and east porch of a building with a great hall extending to the south and probably another wing. Walford expresses the opinion that the plan as existing is that of the complete structure, or if a hall existed it must have been of wood. But it seems incredible that a porch of such excellent architecture and very solid masonry could have been the adjunct of a timber-framed building or led merely to an open space. The patching of the south-west angle of the porch to a height of *c.* 12 ft. with 17th-century bricks suggests a former broken surface, and the side walls of a one-storied hall might well have been lower than those of the two-storied porch and north wing. The plan was probably reduced in size several centuries ago, and since then the ground itself may have been lowered sufficiently to remove all traces of the foundations of the hall. The main structure is a rectangle about 40½ ft. long by 22 ft. wide internally, with end walls 3 ft. 8 in. thick and side walls 3 ft. 3 in. thick. Attached to its south-east corner

is the porch-wing, about 11 ft. square internally: it presumably opened into the screens-passage of a great hall, but the north wing was evidently of greater importance than the usual buttery, &c., at the screens end of a hall. The east end wall is gabled and stands at nearly its full original height. The lower story has two lancet windows with chamfered jambs and heads and wide splays. The chamber was vaulted, in four bays in the length by two bays in the breadth. Between the lancet windows remains a part of the chamfered respond—about 2 ft. 3 in. high—which received the middle longitudinal arcade of the vaulting: above this fragment the dressed stones are missing. In the east angles are the damaged moulded corbel-capitals which carried the diagonal vault-ribs. In the upper part of the wall are the remains of a fine window of three lights and tracery in a pointed head. The arch outside is richly moulded in three orders and has a moulded label with carved head-stops of which the southern, a priest's head, still survives. Fragments of the moulded tracery bars are still attached to the arch. The inner and outer orders of the head are continued from the jambs, but the middle order was carried on nook-shafts, of which the capitals still remain in place: they are moulded and carved with stiff-leaf foliage. The moulded bases also survive, with short lengths of shafts (*c.* 8 in.) below them on the sill. The internal reveals are splayed and have roll-moulded edges continued in the pointed rear-arch. At the north-east angle is a clasping buttress with a splayed plinth. All this is work of about 1250. Only a small portion of the north wall is standing, this being in the middle where there was a buttress about 7½ ft. wide. This fragment, probably the base of a later chimney-breast, is about 10 ft. high. The remainder of the wall has been destroyed, nearly to the foundations. Of the west end-wall only some 10 to 11 ft. remains at the south end: it appears to have had a buttress against it and contains the gap of a former window about 6 ft. above the ground and about 5 ft. high. The south edge of the wall is obscured by thick ivy, but Walford says it contains a door-jamb, presumably the west doorway of the screens. On the inner face of the wall, about 2 ft. within the original south wall, are three or four lower courses of the hollow-chamfered nib of a doorway, apparently to serve some later small chamber within the larger. The foundations of the 22-inch walls of this chamber—about 5½ ft. by 14 ft.—remain in the soil: possibly it housed a 16th- or 17th-century staircase. Of the main south wall the easternmost 12–13 ft. length stands fairly high and has in it a vertical channel in which was bedded the respond of the easternmost bay of the vaulting. Next west of the channel are the lowest stones of the rounded reveals of a former doorway 4½ ft. wide. The vaulting is entirely non-existent, but lying loose in the porch are many voussoirs of the ribs, which were 9 in. wide and were merely chamfered: one cross-piece shows that they have had no central bosses.

The porch wing is built of ashlar and has clasping buttresses at its two eastern angles, mostly destroyed. The outer east entrance has lost all its dressed stonework, but the inner west entrance retains a two-centred arch with a moulded label with a defaced head-stop under the north end. The arch mould of rolls and

¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* vii, 44–9.

² *Cal. Pat.* 1354–8, p. 633; *ibid.* 1358–61, pp. 119, 331.

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hollows is badly damaged: the middle roll (missing) was carried on moulded capitals which still remain: the 4-in. shafts in the jambs, below the capitals, are missing. The gateway has a quadripartite vault of thin stones in the webbing, parallel with the ridges: the vault had moulded diagonal ribs of which only a few voussoirs are left in place above the angle corbel-capitals: other voussoirs lie loose on the ground: there are hollowed wall-ribs. The vault is in an unsafe condition and is now supported by wood posts and stays. The west wall of the porch-wing rises to nearly the same height as the east wall of the main structure and is gabled. It is too much overgrown with ivy for windows or doorways, if any, to be seen. The lower part of the south-west angle is repaired up to a height of about 12 ft. with 17th-century bricks, but the quoins of the upper story are of good ashlar. The perished remains of a doorway from the upper story of the main structure into the north side of the room over the porch can be seen in the former, and the outer re-entering angle between the two walls has a splay across it for the passage-way, carried on a pointed arch, and corbelling.

Crowhurst Park is a large stone building evolved from an early-17th-century nucleus, now the north-east corner of the house, perhaps of L-shaped plan. It had a porch-wing in the middle of the north front and a central chimney-stack, both surviving. The porch-wing is of two stories and built of ashlar, with a chamfered plinth. The entrance has moulded jambs and a Tudor arch. The head of the wall has a moulded broken cornice and a pediment, in the tympanum of which is an elliptical window, probably of the 18th century, as are the windows on the main wall, four to each floor. The central chimney is a great square stack of brick and has a moulded cornice, above which are four detached diagonal shafts with plain oversailing courses at the top.

The interior has been remodelled but in the western room—a long chamber formerly divided into two—is an early-17th-century fire-place of thin bricks, with an iron fire-back dated 1627 and a carved overmantel. The main front of the house faces west and has a central porch and two bay windows, the northern of the 18th century, the other modern. There is another polygonal bay window in the east front in an 18th-century addition south of the oldest part. A modern addition south of this occupies a former courtyard.

In the park, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of the house, at Brake's Copice, is a small timber-framed cottage of about 1550. It has a high-pitched thatched roof with hipped ends and a central chimney. The framing is of three main bays in the north front with curved struts in the upper story, the infilling of rough-cast cement. The west end is rebuilt with brick and tile-hanging. There is one original window, in the back wall, of five lights with diamond-shaped mullions or bars. Inside is a large fire-place, reduced. Some of the original framing with shaped posts and carved struts is exposed inside the upper story. The roof has old flat rafters and curved wind-braces of one-inch board. Around the rafters are rows of old withies to hold the thatch.

Pyes Farm, farther west, on the east side of the road to the church, is a two-storied house of c. 1630, with a tiled roof. The front has a lower story of 18th-century brick and has a porch: the upper story is weather-boarded. There are two projecting bay windows

above which are gable heads of further projection. These have original stop-moulded bressummers on moulded brackets, and moulded and pierced pendants at the apices. The central chimney-stack is of the local rebated type, of 17th-century bricks. The gabled south-west end has a fine projecting chimney-stack with a square shaft. The chimney is low for the present height of the gable and may be a relic of a still earlier (16th-century) and lower building.

Blacklands, opposite Pyes Farm, bears the date 1679, but was remodelled in 1927. The northern room in the ground floor has a wide fire-place and a good open-timbered ceiling with stop-chamfered beams.

Hye House, south of the church, is a large brick house of 1744, the date appearing on several rainwater-heads with the initials TB. The north-east front has angle pilasters, plain string-course, a moulded cornice and an embattled parapet. The middle doorway has a flat hood on brackets and above it is a shallow coved recess with rusticated brick pilasters. There are three heavy square chimney-stacks. Nash's Farm, a small brick house about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles west of Hye House, retains its early-17th-century rebated chimney-stack. Inside is a very large fire-place with a stop-chamfered bressummer and one room has an open-timbered ceiling. Royal Oak Cottage, south of Hye House, formerly an inn, dates from the 17th century, but the walls have been weather-boarded or tile-hung and the roof new-tiled. Byne's Farm, south-west of the last, is another building of about 1630 which has been much altered, but some of the original timber-framing is visible in the back wall. The central chimney-stack contains a wide fire-place with an oak bressummer; the ceiling of the east room has original beams.

The village about the church is small and most of the buildings are modern. There was formerly an iron-forge south of the church and one cottage on the east side of the road is now called 'The Old Iron Furnace' because of the quantity of slag found near the building.¹ This cottage is built of timber-framing, which is visible in the back wall and has the curved struts of the late-16th-century period. The roof is tiled. The chimney-stack in the south end-wall has a very large open fire-place but above the roof it is of 18th-century bricks.

Sampson's Farm, about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south-east of the church, is a 14th-century house presenting no signs of great age externally. It is a plain rectangular building, with a thatched roof, of 18th-century red bricks and with blackened weather-boarding. Above the roof is a good chimney-stack of early-17th-century bricks. The house has been widened and part of the original back wall removed, exposing part of the roof-truss of a one-storied hall with a cambered tie-beam and heavy curved brace below it. A great chimney-stack was inserted in the hall against the truss and an upper floor was inserted. In the east wall of the former hall is an original stop-moulded beam.

Stonebridge Farm, farther east, apparently a late-17th-century building, incorporates a great deal of ancient stonework.

Croucher's Farm, south of Sampsons, is probably a late-16th-century timber-framed building but the timbers are visible in the back wall only. The central chimney-stack is a fine one of the rebated type: in it is a wide fire-place with an oak bressummer. The ceilings are open-timbered; one beam is moulded and in the

¹ Straker, *Wealden Iron*, 352.

upper story is the cambered tie-beam of a roof-truss the upper part of which is hidden.

Adams Farm, somewhat farther south, was probably a timber-framed building of c. 1540, subsequently much altered externally. Above the south end-wall is a good chimney-stack. The north end was lengthened in the early 18th century so that the former end chimney-stack became enclosed. Both these stacks have the usual wide fire-places; the northern has an iron fire-back dated 1656 with the initials ^H_{BM}. The ancient roof-trusses have cambered tie-beams and strutted king-posts.

In the 17th century the ironworks of Crowhurst formed an important industry. The only manufacture of importance to-day is pottery.

The parish contains 2,168 acres, mostly pasture, with some 400 acres of woods and plantations. The subsoil is sand and ironstone and the surface is stiff clay. The chief crops are wheat, oats, and, formerly, hops.

The earliest mention of *CROWHURST MANOR* appears to be in 772, when Offa 'King of the Angles' is said to have given 8 hides at Crowhurst to Oswald, Bishop of Selsey. It seems then to have been part of Bexhill.¹ In the time of Edward the Confessor the manor was in the hands of Earl Harold. After the Conquest it was granted to the Count of Eu with the rape of Hastings,² and the overlordship follows the descent of the rape, but after the middle of the 13th century there were hardly ever sub-tenants. It was at first held of the honour of Hastings by castle-guard,³ but in the 16th century was held directly of the Crown for the service of a quarter fee with the manors of Burwash and Bibleham.⁴ The sub-tenant in 1086, except for $\frac{1}{2}$ hide and 2 virgates held by Walo, was Walter FitzLambert,⁵ who held also the virgate lying within the Liberty of Battle.⁶ This Walter was the ancestor of Walter de Scotney, who gave the church of Crowhurst to the priory of Hastings during the reign of Richard I.⁷ His son Peter in 1210-12 was holding $9\frac{1}{2}$ fees in Sussex by the service of being standard-bearer to the Count of Eu and doing ward at the Castle of Hastings.⁸ One of these fees was doubtless Crowhurst, as Walter de Scotney, son of Peter, held 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ fees of Alice Countess of Eu⁹ and in 1245 received a grant of free warren in Crowhurst.¹⁰ This Walter was chief steward to Richard Earl of Gloucester and, being convicted of administering poison to the earl and his half-brother William de Clare, he was executed in 1259,¹¹ when his estates escheated to the Crown. David de Gormunvill had Crowhurst for three months, apparently as a Crown official,¹² and it was doubtless granted to the king's eldest son Edward with the rest of the Scotney lands, and before 1262 came with the rape to Peter of Savoy.¹³ His successors the Dukes of Brittany

held Crowhurst in demesne,¹⁴ together with Burwash and Bevilham (Bibleham in Mayfield), a circumstance which seems to have separated them from the rest of the rape, as special mention is made of these three manors in subsequent grants. Rents from them were granted in 1374 to Sir Edward Dalyngridge, and in 1379 to Sir John Devereux.¹⁵ In 1399 and 1406 such 100 marks rent was held by Anthony Ritz, with the site of the manor of Crowhurst.¹⁶ In 1411 the manor appears to have been held, or farmed, by John Norbury,¹⁷ but in 1412 the reversion of it, after the death of the Earl of Westmorland, was granted to Sir John Pelham and his heirs,¹⁸ who would thus obtain possession in 1425. Sir John granted Crowhurst to his son John, but after the death of the former (in 1428) his widow Joan obtained the manors as part of her dower, and they were not confirmed to the younger Sir John until 1439.¹⁹ In 1445, however, the Rape of Hastings being obtained by Sir Thomas Hoo, Sir John Pelham was compelled to hold them of him in socage.²⁰ The next holder of the rape, William, Lord Hastings, seems to have laid claim to these three demesne manors, but in 1465 he acknowledged Sir John's right thereto.²¹ Sir John Pelham died in 1466, directing in his will that his widow should enjoy the profits of the manor of Crowhurst for life. His sons John and William died without issue and in 1503 were succeeded by their brother Thomas. The latter died in 1516, and the property then passed to his second son William, whose son Sir Nicholas Pelham²² died seised of Crowhurst Manor in 1560. His son Sir John, who died in 1580, left a son Oliver, a few months old. Crowhurst had formed part of the jointure of Sir John's wife Judith.²³ She outlived Oliver, who died in 1585,²⁴ and after her death the manor reverted to his uncle Sir Thomas Pelham. In 1604 Sir Thomas, who had acquired the rape in 1591, obtained corroboration of his title from the Crown.²⁵ He died in 1624,²⁶ the estate then passing to his son Thomas. At his death in 1654 his wife Margaret was still living, and although Sir John Pelham, his eldest son by his first wife, was confirmed in his title to the manor in 1669, Margaret was holding the manor in 1674, apparently on behalf of her own son Nicholas.²⁷ Sir Nicholas was holding the manor in 1704,²⁸ but seems then to have settled it on his son Thomas, as the latter held the manorial courts from 1708 to 1756, although his father survived until 1739.²⁹ After being held successively by his sons, John, who died in 1786,



PELHAM. Azure three pelicans argent, quartering Gules two buckles with their straps argent.

¹ Birch, *Cart. Sax.* i, 208. The charter is spurious but probably represents an actual pre-Conquest grant.

² *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 398a.

³ Chan. Inq. p.m. 13 Edw. III (2nd nos.), no. 57.

⁴ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* iii, Inqs. nos. 19 and 147.

⁵ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 398a.

⁶ Ibid. 395a.

⁷ Ibid. 381; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* x, 171; *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), 38-9. In Pat. R. 23 Hen. VI, pt. 2, m. 19, the estates are referred to as being sometime of Ralph de Scotney, probably an error, as there is no record of him.

⁸ *Red Book of Exch.* (Rolls Series), ii, 554, 623.

⁹ *Bk. of Fees*, 691.

¹⁰ *Cal. Chart. R.* 1226-57, p. 287.

¹¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* vii, 52; Matt. Paris, *Chron.* v, 725, 747.

¹² *Hund. Rolls* (Rec. Com.), ii, 216.

¹³ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* i, no. 584.

¹⁴ *Cal. Pat.* 1301-7, p. 347; Chan. Inq. p.m. 8 Edw. III (1st nos.), no. 70; *ibid.*

15 Edw. III (1st nos.), no. 43; *Coll. Top. et Gen.* vii, 118, &c.

¹⁵ *Cal. Pat.* 1381-5, pp. 53 and 55.

¹⁶ Close R. 1 Hen. IV, pt. 1, m. 18 d.; *Cal. Pat.* 1405-8, p. 185.

¹⁷ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* x, 136.

¹⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1408-13, p. 457; 1461-7, p. 138.

¹⁹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* ii, 162; Close R.

17 Hen. VI, pt. 1, m. 1.

²⁰ Pat. R. 23 Hen. VI, pt. 2, m. 19;

Add. Ch. 23801, 23808.

²¹ Harl. MS. 4849, fol. 44.

²² Collins, *Peerage*, ed. 1812, v, 504-9.

²³ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxv, no. 119.

²⁴ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xiv, no. 839.

²⁵ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxxvii, 45.

²⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. 1 (Ser. 2), ccccxvii,

no. 41.

²⁷ Collins, *Peerage*, v, 514; *Suss. Arch.*

Coll. xxxvii, 52; *Recov. R. Suss. Mich.* 26

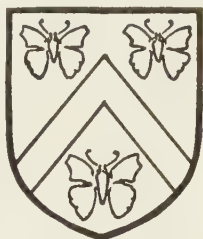
Chas. II, ro. 206.

²⁸ *Recov. R. Mich.* 3 Anne, ro. 232.

²⁹ Collins, *Peerage*, v, 514; Ct. Rolls in possession of the lord of the manor.

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and Henry, who took the name of Cresset, Crowhurst passed to the son of the latter, John Cresset Pelham, who died unmarried in 1838, leaving as co-heirs his two sisters, Frances, who married the Rev. George Augustus Thursby, and Anne, married to Col. Thomas Papillon. After the death of Anne the manor was held jointly by Thomas Papillon, son of Anne, and Mrs. Frances Thursby, and on her death Thomas succeeded to the estate. From him it passed to his son Philip Oxenden Papillon, whose son Lt.-Col. Pelham Rawstorn Papillon, D.S.O., succeeded in 1899 and is the present lord. Inquisitions taken in the reign of Edward III give an account of the revenues of the manor at that time. It consisted of a capital messuage, a garden, the fruit of which was worth nothing on account of the dryness of the trees, 144 acres of arable land, some 175 acres of meadow and pasture, certain customs called 'Mede panes' and 'Bredgeld', and a watermill, the whole amounting to £16 11s. 10½d.¹



PAPILLON. *Azure a chevron between three butterflies argent.*

The *PARK* of Crowhurst may possibly be identical with the park which the Count of Eu had in Baldslow Hundred in 1086, of which one virgate was in Wilting.² In 1305 John of Brittany had free warren there and later it is frequently mentioned separately in grants of the manor. It consisted in 1334 of 60 acres of land and there was a wood called the Forwode containing 70 acres. The pannage in the park was not valued because all tenants had the right of feeding their pigs in common.³ In 1384 the custody of the park, then in the king's hands, was granted to Thomas Brenchesle for life,⁴ and in 1385 the Warden of the Cinque Ports was ordered to fell 200 trees in the park for the fortification of Rye.⁵

In the lease of the manor in 1406 by Ralph Earl of Westmorland, to Anthony Ritz, the lessee had the right to enter the park of Crowhurst and take all kinds of deer and other animals called 'vermyne', to take herbage within the park to the value of 10 marks yearly, and to take sufficient fuel for his household. The earl reserved the right of cutting down trees and undergrowth and of making hedges and coppices within the park, the coppices to be inclosed until the wood should grow beyond the treading down of beasts.⁶ It was included in the disputes between Sir John Pelham and Sir Thomas Hoo,⁷ and thereafter descended with the manor. Later the residence of the lord of the manor was built in it and became known as Crowhurst Park.

The reputed manor of *SWYNEHAM*⁸ occurs early in the reign of Henry III, when Robert de Parentin, son of Mabel de Warbleton, granted the 'land of Swyneham' to Robert de Glottingham, on his marriage with Idonea, daughter of Osbert the White.⁹ It gave its name to a family in the district. Giles the smith, son of Luke de Swinham, and Thomas son of Alexander

de Swinham, occur in early charters,¹⁰ Luke de Swynham about 1264,¹¹ and another Thomas, of Ninfield, is mentioned in 1341.¹²

In 1614 Thomas Elficke died seised of a tenement called Swyneham in Crowhurst, and was succeeded by his son Thomas, who died in 1628, leaving four sons, John, Edward, Stephen, and Robert.¹³ Shortly afterwards, however, it seems to have been acquired by Francis Viscount Montagu, who was holding it in 1637,¹⁴ and in whose family it descended.¹⁵ It is lost sight of after 1721.

The only part of the ancient church of *CHURCH ST. GEORGE* now remaining is the west tower. Before 1856 the church consisted of a chancel and a nave, the former having been shortened by 10 ft. in 1726, and the latter having some round-headed windows and a gabled porch on the south side, rebuilt in 1794. About the centre of the north side of the nave was a three-light window with pointed head and intersecting tracery, similar to the east window of the chancel; on the north side of the chancel was a small vestry with a single lancet at its east end. All this was pulled down in 1856 when a new church was built of local stone in the style of the early 14th century, the architect being Mr. W. H. Teulon. The nave and chancel were built on the lines of the old foundations, with the addition of a north aisle and an organ-chamber at the east end of it and a vestry north of this chamber. The chancel, which internally is 22 ft. 6 in. long by 16 ft. 6 in. wide, has at each of the eastern corners a pair of buttresses, between which is a three-light east window with three trefoiled upper lights. On the north side of the chancel is a single-light window with pointed and cusped head, and on the south side two similar single-light windows between which is a priest's door. The roof has three principals of pine and is ceiled. On the north side there is a pointed arch leading into the organ-chamber, which has a triangular east window of three lights and opens out of the north aisle by a similar pointed arch; on the north side of this organ-chamber is a door into the vestry.

The chancel arch springs from responds with engaged shafts and moulded caps. The arch is moulded and in two orders. The nave is about 42 ft. by 21 ft. internally and on the south side has three buttresses, with two similar two-light windows having trefoiled pointed heads with a trefoiled light above. West of these windows is the south door, under a plainly chamfered pointed arch, before which is the south porch of open timberwork on a dwarf stone base.

On the north side of the nave is an arcade of three bays formed by two free octagonal piers and two semi-octagonal responds. On the north side of the nave is an aisle about 12 feet in width and of equal length with the nave; in the north wall are three two-light windows, uncusped with a small plain trefoiled light above, and another in the west corner. All the above is modern.

At the west end of the nave there is a large archway into the tower having semi-octagonal responds with bell-bottom bases and moulded caps of 15th-century

¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. 8 Edw. III (1st nos.), no. 70; *ibid.* 17 Edw. III (add. nos.), no. 99.

² *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 398b.

³ Chan. Inq. p.m. 8 Edw. III (1st nos.), no. 70.

⁴ *Cal. Pat.* 1381-5, p. 482.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 525.

⁶ *Ibid.* 1405-8, p. 185.

⁷ Add. Ch. 23801.

⁸ Swineham Lane is in the south-east of the parish: *ex inf.* Mr. J. E. Ray. There was a Swyneham on the borders of Hooe and Ninfield, to which some of these references may belong.

⁹ Add. Ch. 31309 (10).

¹⁰ Thorpe, *Battle Abbey Charters*, 35.

¹¹ Lord de L'Isle and Dudley (Hist. MSS.

Com.), III.

¹² Add. MSS. 6348, fol. 220; Cal. Ashburnham Doc. (Lewes), i, no. 10.

¹³ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xiv, nos. 371 and 373.

¹⁴ Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 13 Chas. I.

¹⁵ Recov. R. Hil. 27 Chas. II, ro. 132; *ibid.* Trin. 11 Anne, ro. 128; Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 8 Geo. I.

form and an arch of two orders, both plainly chamfered. The tower is of early-15th-century date and belongs to a group of Sussex towers which can be assigned to the influence of the Pelham family. Externally it has a pair of buttresses supporting the tower arch, the northern being now engaged with the north aisle, and two diagonal buttresses at the western corners. These are of two stages. Adjoining the south-east buttress is a stair turret with three small lights; and a plinth runs round the tower, buttresses, and stair turret. The tower is divided into two stages by an off-set at the first-floor level, above which are, on the south, west, and north sides, small oblong openings lighting a low chamber below the bell-chamber. This latter is lighted by three double openings—cusped with square labels—and by a single one above the apex of the nave roof on the east side. Internally the tower is about 10 ft. by 11 ft., and in the south wall there is a door leading to the newel staircase to the belfry.

The west door has a square label terminating in stops in the form of the buckle badge of the Pelham family; in the spandrels are two plain shields. Above this doorway is a three-light window with six tracery lights above, and above these the tracery in the point of the arch is in the form of a buckle. In 1824 Mr. Herbert records that this window had been filled with painted glass, including an escutcheon of France and England; it is now filled with plain glass.

There are three bells dated 1651, 1686, and 1808 respectively.¹

The plate consists of a silver communion cup, paten, and flagon, all of 1684 and inscribed—'Ex dono Thomae Nathilay Genr'.²

The registers begin in 1558.

The church of St. George at **ADVOWSON** Crowhurst was granted to the priory of the Holy Trinity in Hastings, by Walter de Scotney at the end of the 12th century. This grant was ratified by Henry Count of Eu and subsequently confirmed by Peter de Scotney, son of the donor, and his wife Maud, with the stipulation that 'the priests for the church should be chosen, and if necessary deprived', by the lord of Crowhurst and the Chapter acting in common. This charter was also confirmed by Bishop Seffrid II (1180–1204) and by Bishop Ralph Neville in 1237.³ By the end of the 13th century, however, the church had become a prebend

of the collegiate church of St. Mary in the Castle and was then worth £4 6s. 8d., the priory only retaining a pension of 4 marks.⁴

In 1534–5 the priory's rent or farm from Crowhurst was £1 1s.,⁵ called 'Nede Rent'.

Frequent disputes took place between the king and the bishops of Chichester as to the right of presentation to the prebend and in 1323 the judgement of the Courts upheld the King's claim.⁶

In 1547 the college with the prebend of Crowhurst, then worth £10, was granted to Sir Anthony Browne.⁷ The prebendal property appears to have been held by Sir Anthony's son,⁸ but is not mentioned again as such. The rectory, sometime prior to 1636, came into the possession of the Pelham family,⁹ who also held the advowson.

The advowson of the rectory appears to have remained with the Priory of Hastings¹⁰ until the Dissolution. After that it seems to have followed the descent of the manor in the Pelham family,¹¹ the present patron being Lt.-Col. P. R. Papillon, lord of the manor.

Henry Smith's Charity forms one of **CHARITIES** the numerous charities founded by

Henry Smith, an alderman of London, about 1620. An annual variable sum out of the Worth estate is spent on cloth which is distributed at Christmas among the poor.

Holloway's Charity was founded by will, the date of which is not known, whereby a sum of 10s. per annum was given to the minister for preaching a sermon on Palm Sunday, and £1 per annum for distribution among the poor. The origin of Gainsford's Charity is not known, but it appears that an annuity of £2 issuing out of land at Gatlings was given for the benefit of the poor. The origin of Sutton's Charity is also unknown, but a sum of 10s. per annum issuing out of a farm called Longbridge at Lingfield was given for the benefit of poor widows. These three charities appear to have been lost.

The Bacon Phillips Christmas Gift Fund was founded by a declaration of trust dated 28 July 1922 whereby £100 was invested, the income to be distributed by the rector and churchwardens among nine deserving parishioners on St. Thomas's Day. The stock is with the Official Trustees and produces about £4 10s.

HOLLINGTON

Horintone, Holinton (xi cent.).

The parish of Hollington lies on the ridges north of St. Leonards between that town and Beaufort Park, about 2½ miles north-west of Hastings. By the Local Government Act of 1897 part of the original parish was added to the borough of Hastings and called Hollington St. John and the remainder was named Hollington Rural, the areas being 561 acres and 2,127 acres respectively. The land is undulating and slopes from 400 ft. in the north at Beauport to 100 ft. at Harley Wood in the south. The road from Battle to Hastings runs

through the parish from north to south. To the south of the village is the Grove, a large house facing east and of rectangular plan with a modern wing extending to the west. The original house, which was the seat of the Levetts in the 15th century and afterwards of the Eversfields, was mostly pulled down in 1804, when the chimneys were retained. It was again enlarged later in the century and is now covered with stucco. None of the windows and doorways is old, but a gable on the north side may be a relic of the earlier building: near it is a tall chimney-stack of the local rebated type, but all

¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 206, where the inscriptions are given.

² *Ibid.* lv, 187.

³ *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 75, 76.

⁴ *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 137b.

⁵ Dugdale, *Mon.* vi, 168.

⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1321–4, pp. 282, 352.

⁷ *L. and P. Hen.* viii, xxi (2), g. 771 (3).

⁸ *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 3 Edw. VI, no. 153.

⁹ *Recov. R. East.* 12 Chas. I, ro. 94.

¹⁰ *Rob. Rede's Reg.* (Suss. Rec. Soc.), 304; *Praty's Reg.* (Suss. Rec. Soc.), 126,

134.

¹¹ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, *Fines*, pp. 90 and 206; *Recov. R. Mich.* 26 Chas. II, ro. 206; *ibid.* Mich. 13 Geo. III, ro. 413; *Horsfield, Suss.* i, 432; *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

cemented. The interior has no old features. Around the garden north of the house is an old wall, of 17th-century or earlier bricks.

Ironlatch Cottage, north-east of the Grove, is an old thatched cottage of brick and some stone, partly covered with tile-hanging.

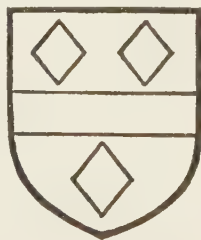
Filsham Farm has a middle doorway of stone with moulded jambs and a Tudor arch in a square head above which is an entablature: carved panels in the lintel bear the initials and date C.W. 1682.¹ The two ends are gabled and have stone copings and middle chimney-stacks, the southern of 17th-century bricks. Mayfield Farm, two tenements, is of almost the same date. A wing at the back has a jettied tile-hung upper story.

The subsoil and surface are both stiff clay, and bricks are largely manufactured.

Before the Conquest **HOLLINGTON MANOR** was held by Godwin and Alestan. After the

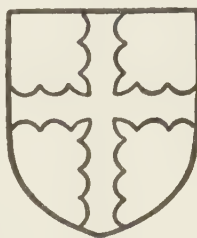
Conquest the Count of Eu kept $1\frac{1}{2}$ hides and 2 virgates of it in demesne, and the abbey of Battle also held 1 virgate. Of the remainder of the land William (holder of most of Cortesley and $\frac{1}{2}$ hide in Filsham, both in the same parish) held one hide, Reinbert (the sheriff) half a hide, in addition to other half hides in Cortesley and Wilting, Hugh half a hide, and Ulward 2 virgates.² The overlordship followed the descent of the rape. Of these sub-tenants, Reinbert the sheriff was the ancestor of the Echingham family, but there is no evidence that they continued to hold land in Hollington. Two centuries after the Survey the manor was in the possession of Matthew de Hastings, probably by descent from Ingelram, who held Wilting in 1086.³ Sir Matthew, who received a grant of free warren in Hollington in 1271,⁴ was the son of Robert de Hastings,⁵ and this Robert, or perhaps his father, held 7 fees in the district in 1210–12,⁶ of which Hollington may have been one. An earlier Robert de Hastings was holding half a fee in 1166, and is mentioned with his wife Isabel shortly before that.⁷

Matthew de Hastings died in 1277, and was succeeded by his son William.⁸ In 1306 the manor was settled by one Robert de Hastings upon William and Aline his wife for their lives, with remainder to Thomas de Hastings.⁹ This Thomas, and Joan his wife, succeeded by 1325, holding with remainder to his son William, and Thomas was still in possession in 1339–40,¹⁰ but leased, and in 1345 granted, the manor to John Wardedeu of Bodiam.¹¹ From him it passed to Sir Edward Dalyngridge in, or before, 1377,¹² and he obtained a definite grant of the manor in 1389.¹³ On his



HASTINGS of Hollington.
Argent a fesse between three lozenges azure.

death in 1394 the property passed to his son John, who left the manor to Alice his widow for life, with remainder to his cousin Richard Dalyngridge. Alice died in 1443¹⁴ and Richard Dalyngridge inherited the property, but died without male heirs in 1470, and by a



DALYNGRIDGE. *Argent a cross engrailed gules.*



POUNDE. *Azure fretty and a chief argent with three roundels gules in the chief.*

previous settlement the manor passed to Thomas and Marcia Pounce, to whom it had been leased in 1448.¹⁵ Thomas Pounce was succeeded by his son John in 1476,¹⁶ whose widow Elizabeth lived until 1511.¹⁷ Her son William gave place to his son Anthony in 1525, who was still holding in 1539.¹⁸ His brother William, the next lord of the manor, died in 1559.¹⁹ During a good part of this century the manor had been leased to John Levett of Grove (q.v.), who died in 1554, and his son Lawrence, who died in 1586.²⁰ In 1636 the manorial rights, free warren, free fishery, view of frankpledge, &c., were in the hands of Sir Thomas Pelham, the overlord,²¹ probably during the minority of the heir. Thomas Pounce leased the manor in 1642 to Thomas Haynes for seven years,²² and Henry Pounce, who held a manorial court in 1664, was in possession in 1684.²³ By 1704 it had passed into the hands of William Nicholas, and in 1717 a court was held by Catherine Porter, widow, after which courts were held until 1725 by William Nicholas. In 1733 Thomas Porter appears in possession.²⁴ By 1735, however, Hollington had come into the hands of James Pelham, brother of Sir Nicholas Pelham of Crowhurst. Courts were held by James Pelham until 1749; by Henry Pelham in 1764, and subsequently by John Pelham²⁵ of Crowhurst, with which manor Hollington has descended to Lt.-Col. P. R. Papillon.

FILSHAM (Pilesham, Wilesham, xi cent.). In Saxon times this manor, consisting of 15 hides, formed part of the demesne of the Crown. In 1086 Robert of Eu kept $8\frac{1}{2}$ hides of it in his own hands. The remainder was divided among twelve small tenants, of whom the most important were Geoffrey, holding 2 hides, and Robert 1 hide and 1 virgate. One virgate was in the Liberty of Battle, and another virgate (not included in the 15 hides) which had been held by Ulmer under King Edward, was assigned to Ulward, the priest of the manorial church.²⁶

¹ Filsham Manor at this date belonged to the Weekes family.

² *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 398a.

³ Cf. Buckholt and Northeye.

⁴ *Cal. Chart. R.* 1257–1300, p. 169.

⁵ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), p. 109.

⁶ *Red Bk. Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), ii, 554.

⁷ *Ibid.* i, 203; *Cal. Doc. France*, 64.

⁸ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 5 Edw. I, file 17, no. 3; *Assize R.* 916, m. 40.

⁹ Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 34 Edw. I.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* Mich. 19 Edw. II; *Coll. Top. et Gen.* vii, 118 (Muster Roll).

¹¹ Add. MS. 39374, fol. 96, quoting De Banco R. Trin. 19 Edw. III.

¹² Feet of F. Suss. East. 51 Edw. III.

¹³ *Cal. Pat.* 1388–92, p. 80.

¹⁴ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 21 Hen. VI, no. 52.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* 11 Edw. IV, no. 48; Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 26 Hen. VI.

¹⁶ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 16 Edw. IV, no. 37.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*; *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xiv, no. 867.

¹⁸ *Ibid.* no. 868; *Recov. R. East.* 31 Hen. VIII, ro. 406.

¹⁹ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxiii, *Inqs.* no. 11.

²⁰ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 381.

²¹ *Recov. R. East.* 12 Chas. I, ro. 94.

²² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxvi, 113, where the name is given as 'Ponds'.

²³ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 15 Chas. II; *ibid.* Trin. 36 Chas. II; Add. MS. 5679.

²⁴ *Ibid.*; *Recov. R. Mich.* 7 Geo. II, ro. 214. Perhaps Catherine was the daughter of Henry Pounce, and married first William Nicholas, and had a son William; and second — Porter, and had a son Thomas. In 1708 the manorial rights were held by Lionel Cranfield, Earl of Dorset and Middlesex; *Recov. R. Trin.* 7 Anne, ro. 220.

²⁵ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 381.

²⁶ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 395a, 397b.

The overlordship follows the descent of the rape,¹ and the manor seems to have come very early into the hands of the Freschville family. As early as 1107 Ansel de Freschville gave to the abbey of Tréport land in Playden and tithes from 'Vilissent', probably Filsham,² and about the end of that century Roger granted the mill of Filsham to the abbey of Robertsbridge.³ Auker de Freschville was holding the fee in 1210-12.⁴ His son Ralph died in 1261,⁵ but seems to have sold Filsham before 1243 to Walter de Scotney, the lord of Crowhurst,⁶ and when Walter was executed for felony in 1259 it escheated with that manor to the Crown, and with it was held for three months by David de Gormunvill.⁷ For a short time it remained in the hands of the overlords,⁸ but about 1310 was granted by John of Brittany to Bertram de Monboucher and Joan his wife in tail male, to be held as one knight's fee.⁹

Bertram died about 1331, leaving a son Reynold aged 17, and shortly afterwards the widow petitioned for her dower in the estate held in the king's hands during the minority of her son.¹⁰ Reynold's son Bertram died seised of the manor in 1387.¹¹ His son Bertram on his death in 1400¹² left a son Bertram, a minor, dower of one-third being granted to the widow Elizabeth. This Bertram died in 1415 without having attained his majority, but leaving an infant son¹³ who also died a minor in the king's wardship in 1426. The property then reverted to Isabel, sister of Bertram's grandfather, but she died about the same time, and it passed to her son Robert Harbotell, and from him to his son Bertram Harbotell,¹⁴ who died seised of it in 1462 leaving it to his son Ralph.¹⁵ Ralph's son Wychard received Filsham from his father as part of his marriage settlement, and died in 1513, leaving an infant son George, during whose minority Sir Henry Willoughby, his mother's father, held the manor.¹⁶ George Harbotell died young and unmarried in 1528, and his property passed to his sisters, Eleanor wife of Thomas Percy, and Mary wife of Edward Fitton.¹⁷ Thomas and Eleanor were holding half the manor in 1528,¹⁸ but in 1537 Sir Thomas was executed for treason, and his portion of Filsham seems to have been held temporarily by Nicholas Webster,¹⁹ but it ultimately reverted to Mary Fitton, who died in



MONBOUCHER. *Argent three fleshpots gules.*

possession of both moieties in 1556.²⁰ In 1558 her son Sir Edward Fitton conveyed it to Barnard Randolph and his son John.²¹ Barnard died in 1583 leaving as heir a grandson Herbert, aged 4 years,²² who on his marriage in 1603 with Judith daughter of Anthony Shirley settled the manor on himself and his wife with reversion to his sister Judith Apsley. His widow became sole possessor on his death a few months later in 1604, and after her death the manor passed to her husband's sister Judith,²³ who with her husband Anthony Apsley was in possession in 1606,²⁴ and Anthony held a court there in 1630.²⁵ Next year, however, Filsham was sold to Giles Garton, who was still holding courts there in 1645.²⁶ His daughter and heir Mary held a court in 1651,²⁷ but next year the manor was in possession of Baynham Throckmorton and Mary his wife,²⁸ probably the same Mary, and they sold it in 1657 to John Weekes²⁹ for £2,150. The latter died in 1680, and his son John in 1702, leaving four daughters and co-heirs. The third daughter Susanna died unmarried, and in 1723 Mary and Henry Lawton, Elizabeth and John Bromfield, and Jane and Edward Cowper possessed one-third of the manor each.³⁰ Jane subsequently married William Moreton, and she and Mary Lawton were still holding their portions in 1754 and 1750.³¹ Elizabeth Bromfield and her husband died in 1734 and 1735, and their third passed to a son John, who was a lunatic, but who inherited the whole manor before 1760, when his sister Elizabeth held a court for him, as she continued to do up to 1788.³² At his death in 1792³³ the manor was purchased by Sir Henry Oxenden, bart., who held courts there in that year and 1798, after which it was conveyed, before 1801, to Wastel Brisco. His eldest son Musgrave Brisco held courts from 1836 to 1851, and his widow Frances, who subsequently married Charles Frewen, was lady of the manor until her death in 1867, when it reverted to Musgrave's brother Wastel Brisco. He died in 1878 leaving three daughters, Maria, Eliza, and Sarah. Miss Maria Brisco died in 1887, Miss Eliza Brisco in 1890,³⁴ and about 1899 Miss Sarah Brisco conveyed the manor by deed of gift to Sir Musgrave Horton Brisco, bart., the present owner.



BRISCO. *Argent three running greyhounds sable set palewise.*

¹ Assize R. 912, m. 36; Chan. Inq. p.m. 13 Edw. II, no. 33; *ibid.* 6 Edw. III (2nd nos.), 78; *ibid.* 8 Edw. III (1st nos.), 70; *ibid.* 12 Ric. II, no. 36; *ibid.* 5 Hen. V, no. 31.

² *Cal. Doc. France*, 81. He was still living in 1130-1 (p. 41). The name is variously spelt Fraelville, Fressenvile, and Freschville.

³ Campbell Chart. xxv, 6. A Roger de Freville and his wife Sybil are mentioned in 1161-70: *Cal. Doc. France*, 202.

⁴ *Red Bk. Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), ii, 554. Cf. Chan. Inq. p.m. 13 Edw. II, no. 33. His name was also spelt Auger or Auschier.

⁵ Farrer, *Honors and Kt.'s Fees*, iii, 419.

⁶ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 381.

⁷ Assize R. 912, m. 36; *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 216.

⁸ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiii, 139.

⁹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vii, 493; *Cal. Pat.* 1307-13, p. 269.

¹⁰ Chan. Inq. p.m. 6 Edw. III (2nd nos.), no. 78.

¹¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiv, 113; Chan. Inq. p.m. 12 Ric. II, no. 36.

¹² *Ibid.* 1 Hen. IV, pt. 1, no. 30.

¹³ *Ibid.* 5 Hen. V, file 257, no. 31.

¹⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiv, 113.

¹⁵ Chan. Inq. p.m. 2 Edw. IV, file 482, no. 11.

¹⁶ Exch. Inq. p.m. 1072/2. It was then held for $\frac{1}{57}$ of a knight's fee.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* 1080/3.

¹⁸ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 20 Hen. VIII.

¹⁹ Recov. R. Hil. 30 Hen. VIII, ro. 324.

²⁰ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cx, 152.

²¹ Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 1 Eliz.; *ibid.* Trin. 3 & 4 P. and M.

²² *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxiii, Inqs. no. 166; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiv, 114.

²³ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cclxxxii, 71.

²⁴ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 4 Jas. I.

²⁵ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 381. A grant to Robert Morley and John Baker, who appear in 1614 (*Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 198), seems to have been a lease of the demesne, since a John Baker was still occupying the

demesne in 1671: Exch. Dep. Suss. Mich. 23 Chas. II, no. 33.

²⁶ Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 7 Chas. I; Add. MS. 5679, fol. 381.

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 1652.

²⁹ Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 1657; Exch. Dep. Suss. Mich. 23 Chas. II, no. 33. John Weekes, jun., married Mary Gilbert, and the manor formed part of her marriage settlement in 1689 (Brit. Rec. Soc. Deeds).

³⁰ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 381; Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 6 Geo. I.

³¹ *Ibid.* Hil. 5 Geo. II; *ibid.* Trin. 21 Geo. II; *ibid.* Mich. 24 Geo. II; *ibid.* East. 27 Geo. II; Add. MS. 5679 says that John Bromfield held a court alone in 1733, but this is perhaps a mistake of date.

³² Ct. Books of Filsham, *Suss. Arch. Trust*, Lewes.

³³ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiv, 116.

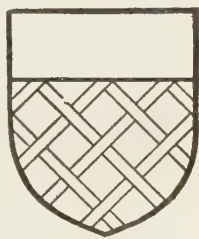
³⁴ Ct. Books of Filsham, *Suss. Arch. Trust*, Lewes.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

The lords of this manor seem from very early times to have had rights of anchorage, flottage, soilage, mesurage, wrecks of the sea, free fishing, and other casual profits.¹

CORTESLEY [Crotleslei (xi cent.); Crotteslea, Crotleslega (xii cent.)]² was held before the Conquest by Golduin, and was part of the lands granted to Robert of Eu. The overlordship followed the descent of the rape.³ In 1086 the sub-tenancy was divided, $\frac{1}{2}$ hide being held by some one unnamed, $\frac{1}{2}$ hide by Reinbert (the sheriff, who had land also in Hollington and Wilting), and $\frac{1}{2}$ hide by Hugh; but the main part consisting of $4\frac{1}{2}$ hides was held by William, with Godwin (probably identical with the pre-Conquest holder) holding it under him.⁴ Nothing more is known of Godwin or his descendants, but this William was William de St. Leger,⁵ since Cortesley is found in about 1150 in the possession of Reynold de St. Leger, who with the consent of the Count of Eu, granted the fee of Cortesley to the priory of St. Pancras at Lewes to maintain a monk to pray for the soul of his wife Helisend.⁶ The gift was confirmed by his son Geoffrey de St. Leger,⁷ but apparently it did not take effect, as no more is heard of the priory's interest, and in 1166 Thomas de St. Leger⁸ was holding 4 fees in the rape, which probably included Cortesley, since his grandson Geoffrey, son of John de St. Leger and his wife Heudiart, held 2 fees in Cortesley in 1210–12.⁹ They descended with the manor of Wartling (q.v.), but before 1320 the 2 fees were lost in the sea.¹⁰ Some lands, however, remained, which had been granted about 1310 to Bertram de Monboucher and Joan his wife,¹¹ and these descended with the manor of Filsham (q.v.) until 1630.

Anthony Apsley, who sold Filsham in 1631, kept Cortesley, and his son Henry left it to his nephew Henry, son of his brother Randolph,¹² who inherited it in 1670, together with the manor of Morley. This Henry held courts in Morley up to 1692, and his widow Cordelia in 1702 and 1707, after which both manors passed to his younger son¹³ John Apsley of Pulborough, whose daughter Cordelia, wife of James Dalrymple, succeeded to the properties in 1770. James Dalrymple died in 1781,¹⁴ but his wife survived him, and Cortesley was in possession of their son John Apsley Dalrymple in 1803.¹⁵ The latter died unmarried



ST. LEGER. *Azure fretty and a chief argent.*

in 1833,¹⁶ and nothing further is known of the manor.

WILTING [Witinges, Wiltingham (xi cent.), Wylytyngham (xiv cent.)]. This manor, which had been held by two freemen, in 1086 was part of the lands of Count Robert of Eu.¹⁷ The overlordship followed the descent of the rape of Hastings.¹⁸ It was held for 3 knight's fees, and service of castle-guard. The sub-tenant of the main part of the estate, 2 hides and 2 virgates of land, in 1086 was Ingelram, 'the sheriff', who as Ingelram de Hastings attested several charters of the Count of Eu. Half a hide was held by Reinbert, $\frac{1}{2}$ hide by Ralf, and 2 virgates by Robert. One virgate was appropriated to the Park of the Count, and another was in the liberty of Battle, but was waste.¹⁹

Early in the 13th century Wilting had probably come into the hands of William de Moyne or Mowyn, who held 3 fees in the rape in 1210–12, but claimed to owe the service of 2 knights only.²⁰ In 1272 Sir John Moyne settled the reversion on his son John and his heirs.²¹ Mabel, widow of the elder Sir John, was still holding a third of the manor in dower in 1285, when John Mowyn the younger conveyed the reversion thereof with the remaining two-thirds to William son of Baldwin de Stowe.²² William's son Baldwin was in possession in 1291, when John Mowyn's widow Hece-line sued him for dower,²³ and was still holding it in 1327.²⁴ By 1339 Wilting had, however, come to John de Goldingham, who, with his wife Eleanor, was sued for dower by Baldwin's widow Rose.²⁵ It passed subsequently to Sir Alexander de Goldingham, who in 1373 granted it to Robert Belknap and Julian his wife, probably Alexander's daughter,²⁶ after which it follows the descent of Hollington Manor (q.v.).

A chapel existed on the manor of Wilting²⁷ and, like Hollington, it and the tithes formed part of the endowment of the prebend of Ralph Tayard, confirmed to the College of St. Mary in Hastings Castle early in the 12th century.²⁸ There is no trace of it after this date.

THE GROVE is a capital messuage in Hollington, the name of which is associated from early times with a local family. Nicholas atte Grove is mentioned in 1296, and Gilbert atte Grove in 1327 and 1332.²⁹ In 1374 William atte Grove and Maud his wife held land in the parish.³⁰

In the 16th century the Grove, together with a messuage and windmill called Swans, came into the hands of the Levett family,³¹ who owned the manor of Yielding (q.v.), and descended with it to the Eversfields.

James Eversfield of Denne Park died in 1872 leaving a son Charles Gilbert, who died without issue in 1886,

¹ Exch. Dep. Mich. 23 Chas. II, 33.

² The situation of Cortesley is not known; the fees certainly extended into Hastings and Hollington.

³ *Red Bk. Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), ii, 554; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 6 Edw. III (2nd nos.), 78; *ibid.* 12 Ric. II, no. 36; *ibid.* 5 Hen. V, no. 31; *Exch. Inq.* 1072/2, 1080/3; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cclxxii, 71.

⁴ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 398a.

⁵ See under Broomhill, p. 149.

⁶ *Lewes Chartulary* (Suss. Rec. Soc.), pt. i, 149, 153.

⁷ *Ibid.* 149.

⁸ Probably the brother of Reynold: *ibid.* 153.

⁹ *Red Bk. Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), i, 202; ii, 554; *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), 35, 68, 83.

¹⁰ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, p. 101.

¹¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1307–13, p. 269. They were

subject to the yearly rendering of a pair of gilt spurs.

¹² *Cal. Drake Coll.* D. 263, *Suss. Arch. Trust, Lewes.*

¹³ The elder son Henry died in 1697; *ibid.* no. 495.

¹⁴ *Add. MS.* 5680, fol. 27; *Berry, Suss. Gen.* 151.

¹⁵ *Recov. R. Hil.* 43 Geo. III, ro. 153.

¹⁶ *Horsfield, Sussex*, i, 591.

¹⁷ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 398b.

¹⁸ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 13 Edw. II, no. 33; *ibid.* 15 Edw. III (1st nos.), 43; *ibid.* 13 Edw. III (2nd nos.), 57; *ibid.* 11 Edw. IV, no. 48; *ibid.* (Ser. 2), xxvi, 65; *Lay Sub. R.* 189/74.

¹⁹ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 395a, 398b.

²⁰ *Red Bk. Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), ii, 554. Cf. *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, p. 102: three knight's fees in Wilting, formerly of Will.

de Meyhoun.

²¹ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* vii, *Fines*, no. 808.

²² *Feet of F. Suss.* 13 Edw. I, no. 8.

²³ *Add. MS.* 39373, fol. 120.

²⁴ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, 5, 324; *Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin.* 32 Edw. I; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 13 Edw. II, no. 33.

²⁵ *Add. MS.* 39374, fol. 38; *Coll. Top. et Gen.* vii, 118 (Muster Roll).

²⁶ *Close R.* 47 Edw. III, m. 10; *Add. MS.* 39374, fol. 256; In 1427 Alice Dalyngridge (widow of John) was said to hold 3 fees in Wilting as the heir of John Goldingham: *Feud. Aids*, v, 151.

²⁷ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiii, 137.

²⁸ *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 112, 113.

²⁹ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, 4, 212, 323.

³⁰ *Feet of F. Suss.* 48 Edw. III, no. 21.

³¹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cviii, 105; *ibid.* ccxi, 192.

when the property passed to his nephew Edward Eversfield Bethune, son of his sister Ann Eversfield and Charles Goodwin Bethune. Edward took the name of Eversfield, and was succeeded in 1912 by his son Charles Cyril St. Leonards Eversfield, upon whose death two years later Grove passed to his aunt Miss Isabella Catherine Mary Bethune, who, with her sister and heir, Miss Sophia Beatrice Bethune, also took the name of Eversfield in 1915.¹

The church is surrounded by woodland, *CHURCH* some distance from any habitation, and it has thus acquired the description of 'the Church in the Wood'. Its dedication is now treated as that of St. Leonard, apparently by confusion with the adjoining parish on the south, the parish church of which was destroyed in the 16th century, when the parishioners resorted to the church of Hollington.² The true dedication of Hollington Church was probably *ST. RUMBOLD*.³ It has been so much altered and restored in the 19th century that very little of the ancient church is left.

The chancel, which internally is 22 ft. 3 in. long by 18 ft. 3 in. wide, is very largely a 19th-century building. The east wall, which is now cemented over on the outside, may possibly be part of the old church; it has a plain chamfered off-set about 2 ft. above the ground, below which the wall appears to be ancient. Above this there is a three-light window of 14th-century style, with hood-mould and curled stops. There is a finial at the apex of the gable. The roof of the chancel is tiled. On the south side of the chancel there is a priest's door with pointed head and jambs having two hollow chamfers, and above is a roll hood-moulding with curled stops. West of this doorway is a window of two lights under separate heads. The whole of the south wall with this window and door is a 19th-century rebuilding in local bluestone, with Bath stone dressings. On the north side the chancel is covered by a modern vestry, and part of the wall has been removed to accommodate the organ front and form an entrance into the vestry, which has a double roof with gables at right angles to the chancel roof. Internally the sanctuary contains on the south side a double sedile under a pointed arch, and the east end is panelled in oak, with tabernacles for images. The roof is panelled and boarded in pine. All the internal fittings are modern. On the north side of the chancel there is a single-light window, now obscured by the vestry.

The modern chancel arch is wide and of two orders springing from responds with semicircular engaged shafts and elaborate leaf-carved caps of late 12th-century style. The chancel is separated from the nave by a dwarf stone wall.

The nave is internally 30 ft. 6 in. long by 21 ft. 6 in. wide and has a pair of buttresses at the east end to support the thrust of the chancel arch, the northern of which has been incorporated in the wall of the vestry. The whole of the south side of the nave is a mid-19th-century rebuilding in bluestone and there is also a south porch built at the same time. East and west of the porch are two windows, each of two lights with tracery above in 14th-century style. The porch is open with an arcade of columns on each side, and the en-

trance is under an arch of a similar design to that of the chancel arch. At the south-west corner of the nave is another modern buttress. The west and north walls of the nave are both ancient. On the west wall there is a large shallow buttress containing a quantity of re-used Caen stone, with a plinth and offset. This buttress now forms a chimney for the heating boiler. On each side of this buttress is a modern two-light window with traceried head, and above the buttress is a light in the gable. At the north-west corner of the nave is an angle-buttress with plinth, and there is a buttress about the middle of the north wall. Both these appear to be additions, as there is no plinth running along the wall. In the north wall of the nave can be seen a blocked doorway with pointed head and plainly chamfered jambs. There are two windows in this wall, of two lights with square lintels of 15th-century type. Internally the windows on the north side are plain and square and on the south side they have flat sills and stone-dressed jambs. All the windows except the western one on the north side have modern stained glass. At the west end of the nave is a bell-cote, supported by a modern tie-beam and framing and having louvres. It contains one medieval bell.⁴ The font and marble pulpit are modern. The nave roof is modern, 7-cant type, but there is one old tie-beam.

There are a few modern memorial tablets.

The plate consists of two chalices and patens and a flagon, of silver, all given in 1866 by David Henry Stone, Alderman of London.⁵

The register begins in 1636.

Owing to its sequestered situation the churchyard has been much favoured as a burial place and has been enlarged several times. It contains many elaborate modern monuments.

The church of *ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST* was erected in 1865 from designs, in the Early English style, by E. A. Wyon and is built of local bluestone with Bath-stone dressings. It consists of a short chancel with a vestry on the north and a square tower of four stages on the south; a nave of four bays; south aisle; and south porch. The south arcade of the nave has four pointed arches rising from circular pillars with moulded caps; on the north is a blocked arcade, allowing for the future addition of an aisle. The south aisle opens on the east into the tower, which serves as an organ-chamber and contains one bell.

The chapel of Hollington and its *ADVOWSON* tithes formed part of the endowment of the prebend of Ralph Tayard confirmed to the College of St. Mary in the Castle by Henry Count of Eu early in the 12th century. This prebend, known as Hollington (with Ewhurst and Bodiam),⁶ was valued in 1291 at £4 6s. 8d.⁷ An annuity of 20s. was payable to the Dean of the college,⁸ and one of 12s. to the priory of Lewes.⁹ The patronage was vested in the prebend¹⁰ until the latter, then worth 69s., was granted, with the advowson of the vicarage, to Sir Anthony Browne in 1547.¹¹ The advowson remained in Sir Anthony's family for the next hundred years and appears in 1642 in the possession of Francis, Viscount Montagu,¹² his grandson.

In 1667 presentation was made by Sir Charles

¹ Burke, *Landed Gentry*.

² See below, p. 86.

³ Dawson, *Hastings Castle*, ii, 471.

⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 212; lvii, 11.

⁵ *Ibid.* lv, 193.

⁶ *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 112, 113.

⁷ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiii, 143.

⁸ *Ibid.* 141.

⁹ *Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, 141.

¹⁰ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxi, 154, but see also

Crowhurst.

¹¹ Pat. 38 Hen. VIII, pt. 13; *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xxi (2), g. 771 (3).

¹² Feet of F. Suss. East. 18 Chas. I; see also *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxi, 154.

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Shelley, bart., soon after which it was acquired by the Eversfield family of Grove (q.v.), one of whom presented in 1679, and with whom it has since remained.¹ Miss Eversfield is the present patron. It was made a rectory in 1867.

The ecclesiastical parish of St. John the Evangelist was formed out of the old parish in 1870. It was constituted a civil parish in 1897, when it was added to the borough of Hastings. The vicarage is in the gift of the Church Patronage Society.

The first mention of the rectorial manor of *ST. LEONARD'S* is in 1546, when a lease of the rectory and free chapel of St. Leonard in Hollington with 'all manner of courts thereto belonging' was granted by John Cotterell, scholar of the University of Oxford and incumbent of the chapel, to John Kyme of Lewes and his son for twenty-one years.²

The church and rectory of St. Leonard's had, as already mentioned,³ come into the hands of New College, Oxford, but by the beginning of the 16th century the church had decayed, and in 1548 it was stated that for 'time out of mind' the inhabitants of the parish had attended the church of Hollington for divine service.⁴ The rectory became the sinecure 'free chapel of St. Leonard in Hollington'. This was held in 1535 by John Perse and was worth 43*s.* 7*d.*, beyond 3*s.* 4*d.* paid to the Warden and fellows of New College.⁵ John Cotterell, the incumbent of 1546, was fellow of New College from 1524 to 1542, rector of Winford (Somerset) from 1524 to 1572, and holder of various prebends and dignities.⁶ On the suppression of the chantries he received a pension of 27*s.*, the full value of the rectory at that time.⁷ Lands in the ancient parish did not pay tithes to Hollington, though in the 17th century some of the tenants made voluntary payments to the vicar in consideration of their use of his church,⁸ but the rectory seems to have been nominally, if not legally, absorbed into Hollington.

In 1548 the manor was bought from the Crown by John Kyme. The purchaser was to be freed from all encumbrances except certain specified annual payments, and the lead and bell were to be excepted.⁹ John Kyme died seised of the manor in 1582¹⁰ and his son John on his death in 1585 bequeathed it to his sister, who had married a member of the Colte family, with reversion to her son Thomas;¹¹ the latter afterwards succeeded and held the property certainly till 1608.¹² The manor passed successively to John and Edward Colte, the latter being in possession in 1626.¹³ Before 1636, however, he appears to have sold it to John Bucher of Wadhurst, who in that year conveyed it to Simon Wakeham¹⁴ of Bexhill, from which family it was purchased by the Rev. John Carr, vicar of Hollington,¹⁵ who died in 1667. He left his estates to his wife Anne,¹⁶ who died a few months later leaving the manor to Thomas Delves, rector of Bexhill,¹⁷ whose daughter and heir Cordelia

had married James Cranston, rector of St. Clement's and All Saints, Hastings, and was holding jointly with her husband in 1695.¹⁸ Their daughter Mary married John Collier, a man who from the many official positions which he held in Hastings played a very important part in the history of that town in the 18th century. He became four times Mayor of Hastings, was appointed Solicitor to the Cinque Ports in 1714 and 1727, and also held the position of Town Clerk.¹⁹ He died in 1760 leaving as co-heirs five daughters: Cecilia, who married General the Hon. James Murray, fifth son of Lord Elibank; Mary, wife to Edward Milward, for fifty years Mayor and Deputy-mayor of Hastings; Jane, afterwards married to William Green, who had no children; Sarah, who married Henry Sayer, Registrar of the Charterhouse; and Henrietta, married to Henry Jackson.²⁰ In 1766 a partition of the property was made and the manor of St. Leonards in accordance with the marriage settlement formed part of the share of William Green and his wife Jane. Mrs. Green died in 1802, leaving all her property to her husband for life with remainder as regarded the manor of St. Leonards to the children of her two sisters, Mrs. Milward and Mrs. Sayer. In 1827 the Sayer property was conveyed to Edward Milward,²¹ son of the former. He left the whole for life to his wife Sarah, who afterwards married the Earl of Waldegrave and died without children in 1873, having survived her cousins and prospective heirs, the Rev. Edward Lane Sayer and Mr. Henry Collier Sayer, afterwards Henry Collier Milward. Their five surviving children succeeded to the property.²²

Parish Room. This charity is comprised in a deed of conveyance dated 17 May 1880, and is now regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 11 August 1931. The trustees consist of the rector and churchwardens [ex-officio] and three persons appointed by the parish council.

William Cowley, by his will proved in London on 28 October 1926, gave a sum of £45 to the vicar and churchwardens to be invested and the income applied towards the repair of the churchyard. The endowment produces about £2.

Lovett Churchyard Fund was founded by declaration of trust dated 2 November 1930, whereby a sum of £18 was given to the rector and churchwardens of Hollington St. Leonard, the income to be applied towards the repair of the churchyard. The endowment produces about 15*s.*

Miss E. Kate Clark, by her will proved in London on 13 April 1932, gave a sum of £100 to the rector and churchwardens of Hollington St. Leonard to invest and to apply the income thereon towards the poor fund of the parish.

All the sums of stock are with the Official Trustees.

¹ Ibid.; Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.); *Suss. Rec. Soc. xix, Fines*, 179.

² Aug. Off. Misc. Bk. lxvii, fol. 530.

³ See above, p. 27.

⁴ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxvi, 73.

⁵ Ibid. 8.

⁶ Foster, *Alumni Oxon.*

⁷ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxvi, 56.

⁸ Exch. Dep. by Com. 21 Chas. II, no.

14.

⁹ Pat. R. 2 Edw. VI, pt. 3, m. 36.

¹⁰ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 277.

¹¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxi, 90.

¹² Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 40 Eliz.; Chan.

Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ciii, 133.

¹³ Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 1 Chas. I.

¹⁴ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 277.

¹⁵ P.C.C. 59, Hene.

¹⁶ Ibid. 165.

¹⁷ Ibid. 59.

¹⁸ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 7 Wm. III.

¹⁹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xlv, 62, 68.

²⁰ Ibid. 94, 95.

²¹ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 8 & 9 Geo. IV.

²² Private information.



HOLLINGTON CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-WEST: *c.* 1800
 (From a drawing in the Sharpe Collection)



ORE CHURCH, FROM THE NORTH-WEST: *c.* 1800
 (From a drawing in the Sharpe Collection)

ORE

Oare, Oer (xvii cent.).

Ore consists of only a small part of the original parish, the greater part having been added to the borough of Hastings by the Local Government Act of 1897 and formed into the civil parish of St. Helen's. The old London road from Battle to Hastings forms the southern boundary of the parish. The slope of the land is from south to north, the greatest height, 400 ft., being attained near Cold Harbour Farm. The parish is very little watered, only 3 acres out of a total area of 1,368 acres being covered by water. The subsoil is clay and the surface loam. Bricks are manufactured and market gardening is carried on to a small extent.

Ore Place is a stone building of 1864, with later additions, now a Roman Catholic College. North of the house, in the grounds, are the fragmentary ruins of the former house. They consist of some 42 ft. of walling standing about 12 to 14 ft. high, apparently the east side of a hall over 30 ft. long, with a great fire-place and, north of the hall, a screens passage about 6 ft. wide with an east porch. The fire-place, about 7 or 8 ft. wide, has a Tudor arch of red brick. The projecting chimney is of coursed rough ashlar with dressings to the south angle. In the main wall south of the fire-place are the jambs and head of a square window of two lights and a transom: north of the fire-place was a large window and north of that is a low porch projecting about 5½ ft. and 10 ft. wide outside, now coated with cement and made into a summer-house. The east archway has splayed jambs and a Tudor arch. The stumps of the internal doorway and the former cross-walls which formed the screens passage are thickly overgrown with ivy. There are slight indications in the turf of the existence of their foundations. The main wall ceases at the south window, but a short length of cross-wall 2 ft. 2 in. thick, which partly covered the window inside, shows that the hall was shortened at some later period. It is built of good ashlar, afterwards cemented over, and has a plinth of brick. There is little to indicate the age of the fragment, but probably the fire-place is of the Elizabethan period and it may have been inserted in an earlier wall, perhaps of the 15th century.

There is no mention of ORE in the *MANOR* Domesday Survey. The early descent of the over-lordship is uncertain, but by 1304 it was in the hands of Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford,¹ possibly by gift from Edward I, whose daughter Bohun had married, and it was held by him in 1320,² of the honour of Pleshey. From him it passed in succession to his sons, Humphrey and William, and Humphrey de Bohun, son of the latter, was holding in 1362.³ His daughter Eleanor married Thomas, Duke of Gloucester,⁴ and on her death her estates were taken into the King's hands on account of the minority of her daughter Isabel,⁵ who, however, became a nun. The

overlordship then passed to Anne, youngest daughter of Eleanor, who married Edmund, Earl of Stafford. The issues of the Stafford estates in 1417 included 9s. 9d. rent from the manor of Ore held of the castle of Pleshey



BOHUN. *Azure a bend argent cotised or between six lions or.*



STAFFORD. *Or a chevron gules.*

as one knight's fee.⁶ Upon the attainder of Henry Stafford, 3rd duke of Buckingham, in 1521 the lordship appears to have been granted to the lords of the rape, as in 1532 and 1540 the manor was held of Lord Hastings,⁷ and henceforth followed the descent of the rape.

The first mention of Ore is in the reign of Richard I, when Henry de Bodiam enfeoffed Robert de Ore of all his lands called Ore and Camehide.⁸ A William de Ore is mentioned about 1220, and Nicholas de Ore about 1230.⁹ One of these may have been the father of Henry de Ore, who married Agatha, daughter of John de Estling,¹⁰ and Richard de Ore, who received a grant of free warren in Ore in 1254.¹¹ Richard and Henry both supported de Montfort against the King, for which their lands, including Richard's manor of Ore, were seized in 1265.¹² Richard was succeeded by John de Ore (probably his nephew and son of Henry) before 1296.¹³ He was dead by 1307, leaving a widow Amice¹⁴ and a son, William de Ore, who was living in 1332.¹⁵ In 1361 John de Ore died seized of the manor, held by the service of castle-guard. The manor then consisted of a capital messuage, one dovecot in bad repair, rents of assize of free tenants, one villein, one windmill which was overturned by a storm of wind but had now been rebuilt, and profits of the court.¹⁶ His son Richard succeeded to the property but died a month later, having granted it, presumably in trust for his infant daughter, to his brother Robert,¹⁷ who in 1373 settled the manor on himself for life with remainder to his niece Amice daughter of Richard and her heirs male.¹⁸ Robert was still holding it in 1399, for one knight's fee,¹⁹ and Amice had succeeded to the property before 1411, when her husband John Haule²⁰ was assessed for £8 of land in Ore.²¹ Amice died in 1422, leaving a son William,²² who left the manor and advowson to his son Henry in 1449.²³ Robert Haule, probably grandson of Henry, died in 1540 leaving a son William aged 40,²⁴

¹ De Banco R. 153, m. 53; cf. Add. MS. 5689, fol. 54.

² Chan. Inq. p.m. 13 Edw. II, no. 33; G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*. His grandfather, however, had married Maud daughter of Ralph de Exoudun, Count of Eu, and may have received this lordship from him.

³ Chan. Inq. p.m. 36 Edw. III, pt. ii, no. 10. ⁴ Ibid. 1 Hen. IV, pt. i, no. 50.

⁵ Ibid. no. 51, m. 21.

⁶ Mins. Accts. bdle. 1123, no. 11.

⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxvii, 137.

⁸ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* ix, 278.

⁹ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), 77, 88.

¹⁰ Add. MS. 39373, fol. 15; *Suss. Rec. Soc.* ii, no. 453.

¹¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1247-58, p. 304.

¹² *Cal. Inq. Misc.* i, 911, 917.

¹³ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, *Subsidies*, p. 4.

¹⁴ Ibid. xxiii, no. 1232.

¹⁵ Ibid. x, 212 and 323.

¹⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. 36 Edw. III, pt. ii, no. 1.

¹⁷ Ibid. no. 10.

¹⁸ Feet of F. *Suss. Hil.* 47 Edw. III.

¹⁹ Chan. Inq. p.m. 1 Hen. IV, pt. i, no. 50, file 145, m. 44.

²⁰ Ibid. 11 Hen. IV, file 217, no. 10 (1410). John Haule is here called John Ore.

²¹ Lay Subs. R. bdle. 189, no. 63; Add. MS. 5689, fol. 54; Mins. Accts. 1123, no. 11.

²² Reg. Archbp. Chichele, i, fol. 427.

²³ P.C.C. 104, Rous.

²⁴ Recov. R. Trin. 21 Hen. VIII, rot. 322; Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxvii, 137; *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xiv, no. 523.

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and in 1543-4 his son Godard and Cecily his wife conveyed the manor to Sir Richard Sackville.¹ From him



ORE. Gules a bend argent fretty azure.

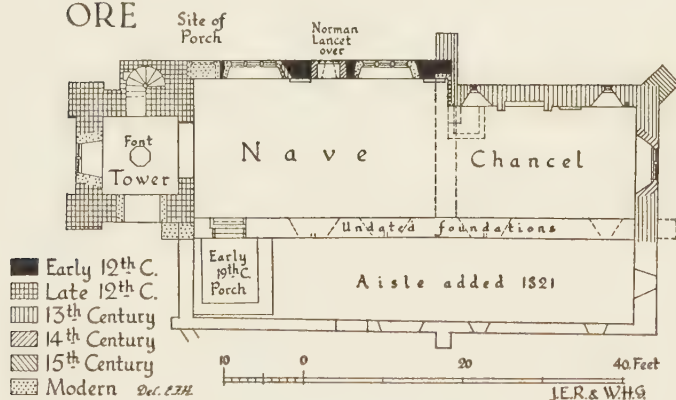


HAULE. Sable three talbots' heads rased argent.

it passed in 1566² to his son Thomas Sackville, afterwards Lord Buckhurst, who died in 1608 leaving it to his fourth son Thomas,³ who was still holding it in 1612.⁴ Shortly afterwards it came into the possession of William Crisp, who, however, in 1626 forfeited two-thirds of his estate for recusancy, and this property was granted to Richard Best for a rent of £40.⁵ The manor was, however, restored to William Crisp before 1640,⁶ and passed to John Harrington, husband of his sister Elizabeth, before 1650.⁷ The latter held courts at Ore up to 1681, but five years later it had passed into the hands of John,⁸ second Lord Caryll, who had married Elizabeth, his daughter and heir.⁹ John Caryll held courts from 1686 to 1722, after which the manor must have been granted to his third son Edward during his father's lifetime, for he held courts there from 1730 to 1764.¹⁰ After Edward's death in 1766 John Caryll and

BALDSLOW¹⁵ is not recorded as a manor in 1086. There were, however, 3 virgates of unnamed land in the hundred, held before the Conquest by twelve free men, which were held of the Count of Eu in 1086 by Ingelram¹⁶ (de Hastings). The family of Hastings subsequently held the manor of Hollington (q.v.), and in 1320 Thomas de Hastings was holding of John of Britanny 5¼ fees in Icklesham, Catsfield, Baldslow, and other places.¹⁷ Nothing more is heard of Baldslow until 1562, when John Westborne and Anne his wife conveyed it, then for the first time called a manor, to Sir Richard Sackville.¹⁸ Sir Richard died seized of it in 1566,¹⁹ when it passed to his son Thomas, afterwards Lord Buckhurst, who settled the manor, then worth £16, on his fourth son Thomas, including the demesne lands called Maplehurst.²⁰ Thomas Sackville leased it in 1614 to Peter Farnden,²¹ who conveyed it back to Sir John Sackville in 1628. The heirs of Sir John paid castle-guard rents at Hastings from 1661 to 1666,²² but the manor seems to have become divided. Peter Farnden, probably son of the previous Peter, retained the part called Maplehurst, paying 4d. castle-guard rent for it from 1661 to 1671,²³ and in 1717 it came into the possession of a Mr. (Samuel) Gott who was the son of Peter Farnden's daughter Joan.²⁴ Thomas Gott succeeded to this portion in 1731, and was still holding it in 1773.²⁵ The other portion was conveyed in 1678 by Edward Sackville to David Denham,²⁶ and came into the possession of Richard Goodyer, whose widow Mary²⁷ held it in 1731, paying 2s. for castle-guard rent, and was still holding it in 1768,²⁸ but after that date there is no further record of the manor.

RUINS of the CHURCH of ST HELEN ORE



Mary sold the manor in 1770 to the Hon. James Murray,¹¹ and his widow Ann and son James Patrick conveyed it in 1804 to Wriothlesley Digby.¹² From him it seems to have come to Sir Howard Elphinstone, bart., who held it in 1835 and 1870.¹³ He died in 1893.¹⁴

The ancient church of ST. CHURCH HELEN has been replaced by a modern church built in 1869, close by the high road, and is now a roofless ruin. Originally it consisted of a nave and chancel and a square western tower. Some time before 1781 (when Grimm's drawing in the Burrell MSS. was made²⁹) a south aisle with an overall roof was added to the nave and the western part of the chancel, with a dormer window but no other windows. This aisle is not shown in a print by H. Morton dated 1817, where the south wall of the nave contains two windows and has a porch. In 1821 a south aisle was again added, this time with a separate span roof and extending to the east end of the chancel.

The chancel is 23 ft. 6 in. in length by 14 ft. in width internally, and is built of local sandstone uncoursed. At the east end is a two-light window of mid-14th-century date, probably an insertion, as the fabric of the walls appears to be much earlier and the internal

¹ Feet of F. Suss. East. 35 Hen. VIII; Com. Pleas D. Enr. East. 35 Hen. VIII, rot. 1.

² Suss. Rec. Soc. xxxiii, no. 23.

³ Add. MS. 5678, fol. 54; Feet of F. Suss. East. 36 Eliz.

⁴ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 10 Jas. I.

⁵ Pat. R. 2 Chas. I, pt. 1, no. 2.

⁶ Feet of F. Div. Co. Mich. 16 Chas. I.

⁷ Cal. of Com. for Comp. 2510; Visit. Suss. (Harl. Soc.), 9.

⁸ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 54.

⁹ Elwes and Robinson, *Western Sussex*, 252.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 9 Geo. III.

¹² Recov. R. Hil. 44 Geo. III, rot. 47.

¹³ Horsfield (*Sussex*, i, 438) says that the owner between Murray and Elphinstone was William Lucas Shadwell; Lower, *Sussex*, ii, 69.

¹⁴ Burke, *Peerage and Baronetage*.

¹⁵ Baldslow is a hamlet lying on the main road from Hastings to Battle, and is partly in Ore and partly in Hollington. It gives its name to the Hundred.

¹⁶ V.C.H. Suss. i, 398b.

¹⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. 13 Edw. II, no. 33.

¹⁸ Feet of F. Suss. East. 4 Eliz.

¹⁹ Suss. Rec. Soc. xxxiii, Inqs. no. 23.

²⁰ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 33, quoting Pelham Deeds; Collins, *Peerage*, ii, 314.

²¹ Feet of F. Suss. East. 12 Jas. I.

²² Add. MS. 5679, fol. 33. This Sir John, and Edward who appears later, were presumably descendants of Thomas.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Suss. Arch. Coll. lxviii, 282.

²⁵ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 33.

²⁶ Feet of F. Suss. East. 30 Chas. II.

²⁷ She granted it, probably on mortgage, to William Twysden in 1725: *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 17.

²⁸ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 33.

²⁹ Ibid. fol. 27.

splays have re-used stones cut at a different angle. The two lights of this window have trefoiled heads above which is a quatrefoil light, and the spandrels are pierced. The scroll drip-moulding terminates in the curled stops common in this district.¹ At the north-east corner of the chancel is a plain angle-buttress of 15th-century date. On the north side of the chancel are two lancet windows, each about 12 in. in width, with rear arches and deep internal splays and pointed heads. They are set close to the east and west ends of the chancel, and on the blank wall between them is a contemporary arched tomb recess. The canopy is supported by two projecting plain jambs from which springs a cinquefoiled arch, the foils being rounded and not pointed; the whole is surmounted by a plain pointed gable. The internal width of this recess is 5 ft. 5 in. and its height above the present ground-level is 6 ft. The south side of the chancel has been entirely destroyed, but the existing drawings show a lancet window near the east end corresponding with that on the north. The semi-octagonal cap of a respond at the east end is the only visible trace of the early-19th-century arcade between the chancel and the aisle.

Of the south aisles of the chancel and nave only the foundations remain. There was a small buttress marking the division between the chancel aisle and that of the nave, and in the nave a three-light window and a door. The north wall of the nave still stands and is mainly of early Norman date, still retaining, about midway between the east and west ends, a tiny Norman window, about 9 in. wide, set high up in the wall, the head being formed with a single stone. Underneath the window is a blocked doorway with a segmental head which impinges on the lower part of the window. On either side of this are two perpendicular windows, each of three cusped lights under a horizontal label; the stonework of these windows is modern. At the north-east angle of the nave is a single buttress, perhaps intended to support the chancel arch, but internally there is no trace of any such division between the nave and chancel. The present length of the nave internally is 32 ft. with a width of 20 ft. 6 in., the total width of nave and south aisle being 31 ft. In the north-west corner of the nave is a narrow modern doorway, formerly entered from a porch which was used as a vestry. This porch had an external door under a gable and angle buttresses. The line of its gable still shows on the north wall and tower.²

At the west end of the nave is the tower, with which it was connected by an arch, 7 ft. in width, of late-12th-century date, the upper part of which has been obliterated and the remainder walled up. Internally the tower is 9 ft. square, and at the north-east corner there is an integral stair turret reaching only to the belfry stage. The stairs of the turret are of rubble, built with centring against an independent central newel—a similar construction being found at Guestling and St. Mary in the Castle, Hastings, both late Norman towers. The entrance to the belfry stage was by a semicircular arched doorway and half-way up is an opening into the

interior of the tower, splayed like a Norman window. There is now a doorway into the tower on the south side at ground-level in which is a considerable quantity of Caen stone, but it is doubtful if this is an ancient feature, and a window in the west wall near ground-level is almost certainly a modern insertion. The tower has clasping buttresses at the western corners, and the whole may be assigned to the latter part of the 12th century. The pyramidal roof of the tower is now within a parapet but the 18th-century view shows it with an overall roof.

The font, now preserved in the tower, is octagonal, the bowl having a projecting scalloped lower edge; it is supported by a shaft with eight attached shafts of rounded form with scalloped octagonal base. It is probably of the same date as the tower.

In this church was formerly a brass of a man and wife under a double canopy, which has been removed to the new church. It probably commemorates John Haule (ob. 1421/2) and Amice his wife (1430), directed by their wills to be buried in the church.³ There are 17th-century armorial gravestones to the Crispe family.

The modern church of *ST. HELEN*,⁴ on the south side of the London road, was built in 1869. It is of local bluestone with Bath-stone dressings and consists of a short chancel with tower, of three stages with a spire, on the south, and vestries on the north; and a nave of three bays, with north and south aisles. The chancel arch springs from corbels, and the pillars of the nave arcades are round, with cable mouldings. There is a door in the western bay of each aisle. The church was designed by Messrs. Habershon and Brock.

The church of Ore was a rectory, *ADVOWSON* valued in 1291 at £5 6s. 8d., and in 1535 at £3 os. 2d.⁵ The advowson followed the descent of the manor down to the middle of the 18th century,⁶ except in two or three instances, presentations being made in 1638 by Sir Henry Compton and William Woodward, and in 1664 by John Pickering.⁷ Charles Eversfield presented in 1718 and 1723, but Edward Caryll, lord of the manor, still owned the advowson in 1748.⁸ Shortly after that it was probably sold; Thomas Pearce presented in 1772, and Samuel Locke from 1804 to 1815,⁹ but Thomas Pearce presented again in 1817. From 1822 to 1841 the daughters of the Rev. Henry Palmer¹⁰ were patrons, and from 1842 to 1844 the Rev. W. Burkitt. It was then bought by Mrs. Mary Anne Turner for her son the Rev. William Twiss Turner, whose brother Thomas was holding in 1880,¹¹ after which it was acquired by the Simeon Trustees, who still hold it.

The Rev. William Twiss Turner, by *CHARITIES* his will proved at Lewes on 5 February 1885, gave to the Charity Commissioners a sum of £333 6s. 8d. Consolidated Bank Annuities upon trust to pay the annual income in maintaining in good repair the tower and existing wall of the old church, the churchyard and the mortuary chapel. The endowment produces in dividends £8 6s. 8d.

The same donor by his will made a similar gift to the

¹ There are other examples at Westfield, Guestling, Icklesham, and Winchelsea.

² This porch is shown in a water-colour drawing by A. J. Cooper made in 1850, but not in the Sharpe drawing of c. 1802.

³ P.C.C. 53 Marche; Reg. Chichele, pt. 1, fol. 426b. For description of this brass see Mosse, *Monumental Effigies of*

Sussex (1932), p. 133.

⁴ Christ Church, Ore, is described under the Borough of Hastings.

⁵ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 136b; *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 344.

⁶ Orig. Roll. 36 Edw. III, m. 30; Recov. R. Trin. 21 Hen. VIII. ro. 322; Feet of F. Suss. East. 35 Hen. VIII; ibid. Mich. 10 Jas. I; ibid. Mich. 16 Chas. I;

ibid. Div. Co. Mich. 2 Will. & Mary; Recov. R. East. 21 Geo. II, ro. 226.

⁷ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

⁸ Ibid.; Recov. R. East. 21 Geo. II, ro. 226.

⁹ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

¹⁰ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 438.

¹¹ Add. MS. 39469, fol. 230.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

Incorporated Society for Promoting the Building of Churches, to be applied in maintaining the fabric of Christ Church, Ore.

Frederick La Trobe Foster, by a declaration of trust dated 14 May 1889, conveyed a piece of land in Grove

Road, Ore, for erecting a mission hall under the management of the archdeacon of Lewes, the rector of Ore, and the vicar and churchwardens of Christ Church. The land and hall are vested in the Official Trustee of Charity Lands.

WESTFIELD

Westwelle (xi cent.); Westfelde (xiv cent.).

The parish of Westfield, situated about 3 miles east of Battle, contains 4,313 acres of which 5 are covered with water. There is no high land, the uniform level of the parish being about 100 ft. The River Brede forms its northern boundary and a stream known as the Doleham Ditch bounds it on the east for some distance, Doleham Farm lying in the fork of these streams. The main road from Tonbridge to Hastings crosses the western part of the parish and is joined by a second road from Brede at Baldslow Wood.

Church Farm, south of the parish church, was the former manor-house and was moated. It is of late-17th-century red and black bricks and has a tiled roof and contains few ancient features. Spray's Bridge Farm, about a mile north-west of the church, is a house of T-shaped plan. The lower story is of early-17th-century thin bricks on stone plinths, and the front porch and the main upper story of later red and black bricks. The porch has a shaped ('Dutch') gable and its lintel bears the initials and date ^S_{EA} 1690.¹ The front door is contemporary, and there are several 17th-century internal doors with moulded battens.

Bluemans, south-west of Spray's Bridge Farm, is a thatched farm-house of c. 1600, built of timber-framing on brick foundations. The central chimney has V-shaped pilasters and has a wide fire-place with a moulded and cambered oak bressummer. Just west of Bluemans is another old thatched cottage with weather-boarded walls.

Crowham, in the north of the parish, is a large house incorporating in its western part a small building of c. 1630. There are two original fire-places with rounded backs of brick and modern arches. The ceilings are open-timbered. The original timber-framed walls have been encased with later brickwork. In the grounds is a remarkable old apple-tree pergola of cross-shaped plan. Crowham Cottage, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of Crowham on the Brede road, is apparently of 14th-century origin. Externally it is of brick and has a thatched roof, above which is a central chimney-stack of 17th-century and later bricks. The middle room of the lower story has an elaborately stop-moulded beam in its north cross-wall and on the opposite side is a wide fire-place of the 16th or 17th century with an oak bressummer. The ceiling-beams and joists are of the same period, but in the room above, against the central chimney-stack, is a highly cambered tie-beam with the mortices and peg-holes for curved braces, and there is original framing with curved struts in other walls. Some of the old wind-braces to the purlins survive in the roof.

Southings, a farm-house about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Crowham, is a mid- to late-16th-century house, much altered externally. There were two parallel wings projecting at the back which were afterwards conjoined by a stair hall. At the gabled north end of the west wing is a 16th-century projecting chimney-stack of brick gathered in at the sides with coped crow-stepping and having a

square shaft with V-shaped pilasters. The central chimney-stack to the main block has wide fire-places on both sides. The eastern room has two walls lined with original oak panelling and has an ornate late-17th-century overmantel. In the ceiling is a moulded beam, and there are two doorways, each having a moulded oak frame and a door of similar panelling hung with 'cock's-head' hinges. The western room, now the kitchen, was the hall, and has stop-moulded ceiling-beams running both ways. In a passage-way cut off its north side is another moulded oak doorway. The two main rooms on the first floor have similar stop-moulded ceiling-beams and the eastern room has panelling and an overmantel as in the room below.

At Westfield Moor is a cottage on the south side of the road with timber-framed walls, probably of late-16th-century date. A fire on Easter Sunday 1935 destroyed the thatched roof and caused serious damage to the walls. The central chimney-stack of thin bricks is of cross-shaped plan. On the opposite side of the road is another weather-boarded cottage with a similar chimney-stack above the tiled roof.

Lankhurst, near Westfield Moor, was a manor-house and dates from the 17th century. It was of timber-framing but is now faced with 18th-century brick and tile-hanging. The roof is tiled. The central chimney-stack contains a wide fire-place with an oak bressummer, and there are original chamfered ceiling-beams. In a back kitchen are two iron fire-backs; one, used as a hearth, is dated 1619 and the other is dated 1662.

Benskins, Downoak, and Pattleton's Farm, all near Southings, and Hart's Green Farm, north-west of Spray's Green, are houses dating from the early 17th century, and Buckhurst Farm, north-west of Blueman's, belongs to the later part of that century. They all have contemporary chimney-stacks with wide fire-places.

Dairy farming and market gardening are the chief industries to-day, although brickmaking is carried on. The ironworks of Westfield were formerly of great importance, and traces of them survive in the names Forge Stream and Forge Wood. Great opposition was offered to the establishment of these works in the 16th century. In February 1576 the Mayor and Jurats of Hastings wrote to the Mayor and Jurats of Rye, stating that a forge, which would destroy their supplies of timber, was to be set up in Westfield, and asking their advice. The Mayor of Rye replied advising them to

'frame a letter to all the whole portes and their members, declaring that except ye have their ayde ye shall not be able to resist it, and put them in mynde how that not only yow but Ry Winchilsey Lidd Hyde Dover Sandwich, the whole Isle of Thanet and divers other places along the seacoast shall feelee the smarte thereof not only for want of fuell but especially for tymber, as well for building of ships botes and other vessels as also for building of houses, tymber and piles for water workes which now is had and hereafter will not if this work take place. And so beyond you as far as Brightelmeston is likewise served frome these partes.'²

¹ The initials are those of Adrian Spray: *ex inf.* Mr. J. E. Ray.

² *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii (4), 56.

The holder of *WESTFIELD* before *MANORS* the Conquest was Wenestan, and afterwards it formed part of the possessions of the Count of Eu.¹ The overlordship followed the descent of the rape (q.v.).

In 1086 the tenant was Wibert, holder of Warbleton, of which manor Westfield was subsequently held.² Under William son of Wibert, Westfield was held in the time of Henry I by a certain Wening.³ In 1262 John de Cressy was reported to be holding 1½ knight's fees in the hundred of Baldslow without having taken up knighthood.⁴ This was probably at Westfield, as the manor was held in 1339 by John de Cressy, who was returned as liable for one hobeler for 10 marks of land in Westfield,⁵ and in 1349 this John de Cressy and Alice his wife settled the manor on himself with contingent remainders to his sons John, Oliver, and Thomas. John was holding 1 knight's fee in Westfield in 1351.⁶

In 1412, however, Henry Gotlee of Northiam was assessed for the manor, valued at £13 6s. 8d.⁷ Anne, sister and heir of John son of Henry Gotlee, at some date before 1433 married John Piers,⁸ whose son George Piers, also of Northiam, was holding it in 1469⁹ and as late as 1516.¹⁰ In 1541 Edward Piers died seised of Westfield, and his widow Margaret held the manor in jointure during the minority of her son Thomas, then aged 6.¹¹

Thomas held the manor till his death in 1606.¹² From him it descended to his son Lawrence, at whose death in 1624¹³ it passed to his son Thomas,¹⁴ who was made a baronet in 1638. His son Thomas held it from 1680 to 1693, but his son Sir George Piers sold the manor in 1719 to Abel Alleyn or Allen.¹⁵ The latter conveyed it to James Cragg of Westerham, Secretary of State, who on his death left three sisters as co-heirs;¹⁶ Margaret, married to Sir John Hynde Cotton, bart., Anne Knight, and Elizabeth Elliot. In 1728 these conveyed the manor to John Lade,¹⁷ who died in 1759. His posthumous son Sir John Lade got into difficulties and was ultimately imprisoned for debt, and this part of his property seems to have been conveyed in 1783 to William Lutman of Hastings.¹⁸ The latter died in 1786 leaving two daughters: Anne wife of the Rev. William Gordon, and a second daughter who married Mr. John Wenham Lewis.¹⁹ They sold the manor at the beginning of the 19th century to Thomas William Lamb, whose son the Rev. Dr. Lamb of Iden conveyed it to Sir Charles Montolieu Lamb, bart. (formerly Burges), who was lord of the manor in 1835.²⁰ His grandson Sir

Archibald Lamb, bart., succeeded in 1864²¹ and died in 1921, when he was succeeded by his brother Col. Sir Charles Anthony Lamb.



LAMB. *Party wavy argent and ermineois a cheveron between three lambs passant sable.*



BURGES. *Party fessewise argent and ermine a fesse lozengy or and azure with three voided lozenges azure in the chief all within a border azure bezanty with a quarter gules charged with a bend argent with the baton of a knight marshal thereon.*



PIERS. *Vert two sceptres or crossed saltirewise.*

CROWHAM [Crokham (xiii cent.); Crawham (xvi cent.); Craffeham, Crougham, Croffham (xvii cent.)] first appears among the fees of the Count of Eu in 1211. Hugh de Peplesham then held it, by the service of providing one ship for the transport of the Count and Countess.²² Presumably the overlordship descended with the rape of Hastings, but in the 17th and 18th centuries Crowham was held of the manor of Burwash.²³ The manor seems to have remained in the family of Peplesham,²⁴ although William de Lessingham was returned as holding it (probably on lease) in 1339,²⁵ for at the end of that century, on the death of Simon de Peplesham, Crowham passed through his daughter and heir Margaret to her husband Robert Cralle,²⁶ and their son Richard Cralle was holding it in 1411–12.²⁷ Richard's heirs were his two sisters, Isabel, who married Vincent Finch, and Margery, the wife of Richard Cheyney.²⁸ Crowham evidently formed part of Margery's portion, and later that of her younger son Simon Cheyney. Simon and his eldest son Alexander had land in Westfield in 1437,²⁹ but Crowham after Simon's death about 1455 must have passed to the youngest son, William Cheyney of Warbleton, and through his son John (d. 1494) and grandson William (d. 1508), to his great-grandson, also William, for it was ultimately inherited by Pelham Cheyney, second son of this last William.³⁰ Pelham died seised of the manor in 1559, leaving it to his brother Richard,³¹ whose son Sir Oliver was holding it in 1604 and 1624.³² Before 1653, however, it had come into the possession of Peter Farnden, who died in 1681,³³ but owing to settlements before

¹ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 398a.

² *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 102; *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 25 Edw. III, file 113, no. 54; *ibid.* (Ser. 2), ccxcii, 169.

³ *Add. Ch.* 20161.

⁴ *Assize R.* 912.

⁵ *Coll. Top. et Gen.* vii, 119.

⁶ *Feet of F. Suss.* Mich. 23 Edw. III, file 63, no. 5; *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 25 Edw. III, file 113, no. 54.

⁷ *Lay Subsidy R.* bdle. 189, no. 63.

⁸ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiv, 102.

⁹ *Add. MS.* 5680, fol. 444.

¹⁰ *Add. MS.* 39377, fol. 100.

¹¹ *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 4 Edw. VI, no. 95.

¹² *Ibid.* (Ser. 2), ccxcii, no. 169.

¹³ *Ibid.* ccccv, 149.

¹⁴ *Feet of F. Suss.* Mich. 13 Chas. I; *ibid.* Div. Co. Trin. 21 Chas. II; *G.E.C. Complete Baronetage*, ii, 432.

¹⁵ *Feet of F. Suss.* Mich. 6 Geo. I.

¹⁶ *Add. MS.* 5680, fol. 446.

¹⁷ *Feet of F. Suss.* Trin. 2 Geo. II.

¹⁸ *Horsfield, History of Suss.* i, 437; *Add. MS.* 5680, fol. 446.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*; *Feet of F. Suss.* Hil. 42 Geo. III.

²⁰ *Horsfield, History of Suss.* i, 437.

²¹ *G.E.C. Complete Baronetage*, v, 307–8.

²² *Red Bk. Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), ii, 555 and 623. He was perhaps the son of Ralph de Peplesham, the Count's 'ostarius', who is mentioned in 1180 and 1192: *Lord de*

L'Isle and Dudley (Hist. MSS. Com.), 39,

43.

²³ *Add. MS.* 5679, fol. 265.

²⁴ See under Peplesham, below, p. 119.

²⁵ *Coll. Top. et Gen.* vii, 119.

²⁶ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxxv, 47.

²⁷ *Ibid.* x, 145 (Subsidy Roll).

²⁸ *Ibid.* xxxvii, 34; lxxv, 47.

²⁹ *Ibid.* 48; *Add. Ch.* 24861.

³⁰ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxxv, 49.

³¹ *Chan. Inq.* p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxviii, 80.

³² *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, *Fines*, p. 115; *Feet of F. Suss.* Hil. 21 Jas. I.

³³ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxix, *Deeds*, no. 731; *Add. MS.* 5679, fol. 265.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

this date the manor was divided into seven parts, which were again subdivided.¹ The chief parties concerned in all these transactions were Samuel Gott, who married Joan, daughter of Peter Farnden by his first wife, and John Baker, who married Ruth, his daughter by his second wife.² Ultimately Baker collected three-quarters of the manor, including the demesne, held a court at Crowham in 1700, and passed this portion on to Peter Baker, presumably his son, about 1725. Peter died in 1730 and was succeeded by his son Michael.³ The remaining quarter of the manor, held by Peter son of Samuel Gott, passed to his son Samuel, who died in 1724, leaving two brothers Thomas and Maximilian, who died before 1730, their heirs being several sisters.⁴ The manorial rights of this quarter then probably lapsed, and the (Baker) manor seems to have been sold to Edward Snow, who held a court in 1740.⁵ He died in 1768 and is said to have left Crowham to Robert Moseley, who held his first court in 1769. From him it passed to his son Robert in 1789, and grandson, also Robert, in 1798, but it was sold in 1824 to Benjamin Smith, who owned it in 1835.⁶ From him it descended to William Leigh Smith.

The earliest actual mention of *LANKHURST* is in 1339 when Robert de Langhurst was assessed to provide an archer for 40s. land in Langhurst.⁷ But this Robert is mentioned in Subsidy Rolls of 1327 and 1333, and Geoffrey de Langhurst, with perhaps an earlier Robert, in 1296.⁸ In 1354 John Langhurst and Alice his wife conveyed some 350 acres and 54s. rent in Langhurst and elsewhere to Adam de Brede.⁹ In 1428 Amice de Ore was holding 1 fee in Ore, Pette, Burton, and Langhurst, part of which was held under her by John Langhurst and others.¹⁰ In 1498 Thomas Oxenbridge settled Lankhurst, then for the first time called a manor, on John Oxenbridge, clerk, probably in trust.¹¹ Soon after this Margery, widow of Thomas, was holding it for life, the manor being vested in trustees to the use of their son Robert, with remainder to William Oxenbridge. Robert died shortly afterwards and William sued for the manor, although the direct heir had been said to be Anne Kingston, daughter of Thomas Oxenbridge's brother John.¹² Whatever resulted from these disputes, in 1564 the manor was conveyed by Philip Fynes to Sir Richard Sackville, who died seised of it in 1566.¹³ From his son Thomas, first Earl of Dorset, it seems to have passed like Baldslow to the fourth son Thomas,¹⁴ and to have been conveyed by him in 1612 to Nicholas Eversfield and Richard Relfe.¹⁵ James Relfe in 1619 sold it to George Knight,¹⁶ but later one Nicholas Breton conveyed it in 1652 to Thomas Dyne.¹⁷

Thomas's daughter and heir Timothea married her first cousin John Dyne, and Lankhurst descended to their son Thomas and grandson Edward, who married Mary Fletcher. Mary Fletcher Dyne, their daughter, married Musgrave Brisco,¹⁸ whose son Wastel Brisco became lord of the manor of Filsham (q.v.), with which manor Lankhurst has since descended.¹⁹

The manor of *DOLEHAM* belonged to Henry de Bodiam, living in the reign of Richard I, as when he conceded certain rents to the Abbey of Battle he accepted the 'lordship of Dolham'.²⁰ His son William also held it, and Margery, widow of Henry, claimed a part in dower in 1200.²¹ After the death of William de Bodiam the overlordship seems to have passed to John Mowyn²² of Wilting (in Hollington) and to have descended with that manor (q.v.) to John Goldingham, after which its history becomes obscure.

Doleham was held of the de Bodiams by William de Hugham, who in 1207 held 2 virgates for $\frac{1}{10}$ of a fee, at a rent of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of cummin at Christmas and 4d. castle-guard rent at Hastings.²³ His son Robert was dead before 1258, leaving a widow Beatrice,²⁴ and another Robert died in 1273 leaving the manor to his son and heir Robert de Hugham, who was under age.²⁵ In the following century Dolham passed to the Alard family, Nicholas Alard leaving an infant son John, of whose inheritance the manor was held for life by his kinsman Reynold Alard, who died in 1354, when John was still aged only 6 $\frac{1}{2}$.²⁶ In 1372 the manor was in the hands of trustees, who granted 40s. rent from it to John de Wodhull.²⁷ In 1420 it was owned by Richard Cralle, and from him it evidently passed to his sister and co-heir Isabel, who married Vincent Finch,²⁸ for in 1479 Henry Finch, at the time of his marriage with Alice Belknap, assigned a quarter of the manor of Doleham, with other property, as her dower after his death,²⁹ and in 1538 Sir William Finch leased it for 30 years to Robert Oxenbridge.³⁰

It seems probable that Doleham was then absorbed into the Finch manor of Netherfield, and that Sir William Burrell was mistaken in identifying Doleham with the manor of *DETCHEAM*.³¹ The lordship of Detcham was held in 1515, with the manor of Westfield, by George Piers,³² and evidently descended to his grandson Thomas, who probably conveyed it to Thomas Hobson. In 1617 it was sold by Thomas, son of James Hobson, to John Sackville, who conveyed it to his son Sir John.³³ A lease of the manor was apparently made to Laurence Piers of Westfield manor, who died in 1624 leaving it to his son Thomas, afterwards Sir Thomas Piers, bart.³⁴ Meanwhile Sir John Sack-

¹ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, *Fines*, p. 115.

² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxviii, 282.

³ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 265 (Burwash Ct. Rolls). ⁴ *Ibid.* ⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*; Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 437.

⁷ *Coll. Top. et Gen.* vii, 120.

⁸ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, 4, 212, and 323.

⁹ Feet of F. *Suss.* Hil. 28 Edw. III, file 64, no. 14.

¹⁰ *Feud. Aids*, v, 151. Amice was the daughter of Richard de Ore (q.v.).

¹¹ Add. Ch. 23803.

¹² E. Chan. Proc. bdle. 423, no. 26, and bdle. 551, no. 60.

¹³ Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 6 Eliz. The Fynes family were related to the elder branch of the Oxenbridges: Chan. Inq. (Ser. 2), cxlv, 2.

¹⁴ *Recov. R. Suss. Trin.* 7 Jas. I, ro. 16.

¹⁵ Feet of F. *Suss.* Mich. 10 Jas. I; *ibid.*

Hil. 11 Jas. I; Add. MS. 5679, fol. 305.

¹⁶ Feet of F. *Suss.* Mich. 17 Jas. I.

¹⁷ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, *Fines*, 262.

¹⁸ Berry, *Sussex Gen.* 162.

¹⁹ *Recov. R. Mich.* 38 Geo. III, ro. 63; Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 437.

²⁰ Add. MS. 6348, fol. 190.

²¹ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* ii, *Fines*, nos. 33, 40, and 116.

²² Roger de Moine leased 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ virgates of land in Westdoleham to William de Bodiam in 1199: *ibid.* no. 33; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 42; *ibid.* x, 202.

²³ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* ii, *Fines*, nos. 40 and 116.

²⁴ *Curia Regis R.* 160, m. 31 d.

²⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, 42; *Hund. R. (Rec. Com.)*, ii, 216.

²⁶ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, 202.

²⁷ Add. Ch. 20163. Will. Battersford,

one of these trustees, was the first husband of Margery de Peplesham, who afterwards married Robert Cralle, father of Richard.

²⁸ Add. Ch. 20066; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxx, 143.

²⁹ Finch-Hatton deeds, 2671, penes Northants. Rec. Soc.

³⁰ Add. Ch. 20165.

³¹ It is assumed in the Burrell MSS. that they are the same: Add. MS. 5679, fol. 291. Several members of the family de Decheham occur in 1296: *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, 5.

³² Add. MS. 39377, fol. 100, quoting De Banco R., Mich. 7 Hen. VIII, m. 440.

³³ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, *Fines*, p. 128; *ibid.* xxix, *Deeds*, no. 730.

³⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccccv, 149, Add. MS. 5679, fol. 291; *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xx, p. 474.

ville exchanged the lordship for lands in Hollington with Peter Farnden, in 1628.¹ Peter Farnden held the manor, described as 'sometime Thomas Peirces and late of Thomas Hobson', as of Cortesley. He was lord of Crowham, and Detcham seems to have followed the descent of that manor (q.v.), and probably became absorbed in it, as it is not heard of after 1674.²

The church of *ST. JOHN THE CHURCH BAPTIST*, until the addition of a north aisle in 1861, consisted of a nave and chancel with a small western tower and a south porch.

The eastern part of the chancel (forming the sanctuary) is a 13th-century addition to the Norman chancel. The eastern wall of the chancel is a 19th-century rebuilding in large sandstone blocks and contains three deeply splayed lancet windows, the centre one being higher than those at the sides. On each side of the sanctuary is a pointed lancet window of early-13th-century date, the sill of that on the southern side being lower than that on the north. Internally the sanctuary is oak-panelled up to the sills of the east window, and in 1935 an oak reredos with three carved figures in canopied niches was added.

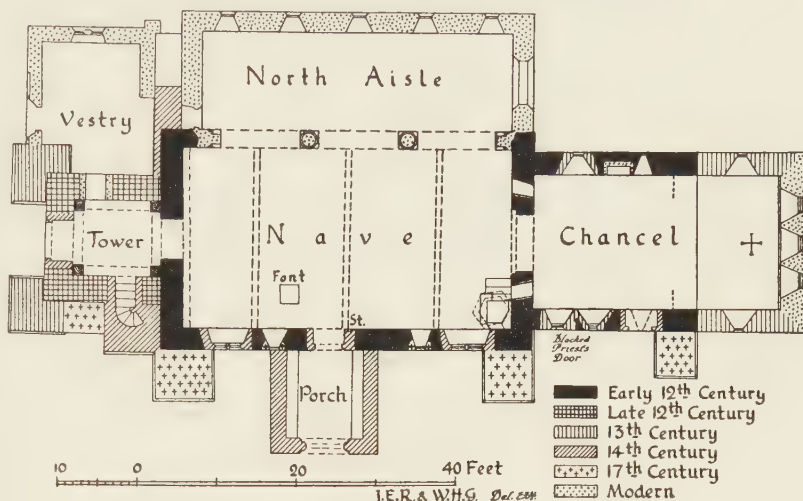
At a distance of 13 ft. 6 in. from the east end a distinct change in the character of the walling on the north side marks the eastward extent of the Norman chancel, which had a length internally of about 21 ft. and a breadth of 16 ft. 9 in. It was lighted by a pair of tiny Norman windows opposite one another in its eastern half high up in the wall, having rather narrow splays internally. The jambs of a similar pair further west have been traced on the inside wall. These have been replaced by early-13th-century lancets, that on the south possibly serving as a low-side window. Below this window are traces on the exterior of a very narrow priest's door about 3 ft. eastward from the end of the nave. East of this there is also a priest's door with a segmental head and jambs of re-used Caen stone and, just to the east of the door, an exceptionally large buttress in two stages marks the eastern end of the Norman chancel. Internally the chancel windows have plain jambs and sloping sills, but no rear arches or hood moulds. On the north side a small organ is bracketed out from the north wall between the Norman window and the western lancet and there are oak choir-stalls.

The chancel arch is semicircular, having a roll moulding on its western face. It springs from imposts plainly chamfered and on the western side the jambs have a roll moulding terminating in a moulded cap, the base on the north side consisting of small annular rolls and that on the south having been cut away. On each side of the chancel arch there is an opening in the wall with semicircular head forming a squint, now plastered over. The nave has few marks of early date, but the walls are probably as old as those of the western part of the

chancel. At the east end of the south wall is another exceptionally large buttress, not bonded in, and, like all the other buttresses, an addition to the original structure—it has a plinth and one off-set. West of this is a two-light window with trefoiled heads and a top light of 14th-century tracery; and next to this is a window with round depressed head set high up in the wall, being a plain opening straight through the wall. Just west of the porch there is a similar window. These may represent a pair of Norman windows enlarged in the 17th century.

Just west of the centre of the nave is the south doorway under a pointed arch plainly chamfered. The door

PARISH CHURCH of ST. JOHN the BAPTIST WESTFIELD



itself is panelled and the date 1542 in iron figures is affixed to the outside.

The south door is protected by a large stone porch, 13 ft. square externally, of 14th-century date, not bonded into the wall. It was built as an open porch and therefore has no windows at the sides. The southern entrance to it is under an arch of two orders, both plainly chamfered, springing from moulded caps, with external hood-mould terminating in the curled stops so typical of that period in this district. There is a sundial on a stone set in the gable of the porch and dated 1626. Near the west end of the nave is a two-light window with 14th-century tracery. At the west end of the nave is another massive buttress, in which is a stone with the date 1624 and the initials I.E.R.R.

The north wall of the nave was removed in 1861 for the addition of an aisle, which opens out of the nave by an arcade of three bays formed by two circular piers and two semicircular responds. This aisle has five single-light round-headed windows on the north side and a circular window at the east end, which has been recently filled with stained glass. The roof of this aisle is a lean-to to the main roof of the nave, which is an open-timber roof of seven cants with four tie-beams but no king-posts.

In the south-east corner of the nave is a Jacobean pulpit and there are some modern memorial tablets. On the east side of the south door inside there is a part of the bowl of a holy-water stoup, the projecting part having been cut off.

¹ Ibid. xxix, no. 730.

² Ibid. xix, 115.

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The west tower is of small size, being only 9 ft. 3 in. square internally, and is in two stages, originally built without buttresses or a stair turret, indicating a Norman date, but it would appear to be an addition to the west wall of the nave, through which it is approached by an opening 5 ft. wide, representing the original west door of the church before the erection of the tower. This opening has plain jambs into which a modern arch of two orders has been inserted. In the early 13th century very massive clasping buttresses, one-quarter engaged with the western corners, were added, and later a stair turret was constructed in the south wall and further buttresses were built on that side.

The west door is pointed, with moulding and a scroll hood-moulding with curled stops similar to that of the south porch. The upper part of the tower appears to have been refaced on its western side with large sandstone blocks. There are three openings in the belfry stage each with a central mullion and slightly pointed heads; the tower is covered with a plain overall tiled roof.

There are three bells, one medieval and the others of 1698 and 1699 respectively.¹

The plate includes a communion cup, paten, and flagon, of silver, bearing the date 1736; another cup with hall marks of 1764; and a paten with marks for 1761.²

¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 288, where the inscriptions are given.

² *Ibid.* lv, 199.

³ *Add. Ch.* 20161.

⁴ *Chron. of Battle Abbey* (ed. Lower), 59.

⁵ *Ibid.* 218.

⁶ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 137a.

⁷ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, *Fines*, p. 27.

⁸ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xix, g. 1035

(137).

⁹ *Cal. Pat. Edw. VI*, iv, 178.

The registers begin in 1552.

About 1100 Wening, who was *ADVOWSON* holding Westfield manor, granted the church, with the unusual accessory of a pit for the ordeal by water, to the Abbey of Battle.³ This grant was confirmed by his overlord William fitzWibert.⁴ In 1251 Richard Bishop of Chichester allowed the abbey to appropriate the tithes of Westfield, the monks paying the vicar 100s. annually besides one pilch or furred garment and decent clerical coats.⁵ The church in 1291 was valued at £5 6s. 8d., the vicarage being worth £6 13s. 4d.⁶ In 1538 the abbot of Battle conveyed the rectory and advowson to the king,⁷ who in 1544 granted them to Sir Richard Sackville,⁸ but in 1551 a grant of the rectory was made to John, Bishop of Winchester.⁹ The Crown, however, kept the advowson and Queen Elizabeth presented in 1583, 1589, and 1597.¹⁰ At the beginning of the following century, however, the advowson was again in possession of the Sackvilles, held in chief, and the rectory also, held of the Bishop of Winchester.¹¹ Richard, second Earl of Dorset, appears to have conveyed the advowson to the Bishops of Chichester, who have since held it.¹²

The rectorial tithes in 1835 were leased to the parishioners for terms of 7, 14, and 21 years,¹³ but they are now owned by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

¹⁰ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xii, 259.

¹¹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccii, no. 110; *ibid.* cccxii, no. 128; *Add. MS.* 5680, fol. 443.

¹² *Ibid.*; *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

¹³ Horsfield, *History of Sussex*, i, 438.

THE HUNDRED OF BATTLE

CONTAINING THE PARISHES OF

BATTLE WHATLINGTON¹

THE charters granted to the abbey of Battle by King William and confirmed by his successors exempted the abbot and his men from attendance at shire and hundred courts and gave them the right to hold their own courts without hindrance from the sheriff or bailiff of the hundred.²

The half-hundred of Battle was formed out of the Domesday hundred of 'Hailesaltede' and included the whole of the Lowey of the abbey. The Lowey was composed of all the land within $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the abbey and in 1086 contained $6\frac{1}{2}$ hides but was assessed for 6 only, the other half-hide paying no geld because it was 'outside the rape'.³ The boundary of the Lowey is given in the Chronicle of Battle Abbey as 'from without Bodehurst [Bathurst] on the east . . . and near the land of Roger Moin⁴ as far as Hecilande [Hedgeland near Telham] and includes Hecilande near the land . . . of Crowhurst on the south. Thence it passes by the land of Cattesfelde and by Puchehole⁵ as far as Westbece [Beech Farm] near the land of Bodeham⁶ to the west. After this it passes along by the land of Itintune [Eatington in Mountfield] as far as to the north. Thence there is a boundary by the land of Wetlingtuna [Whatlington] and the land of Wicham and by Setlescumbe [Sedlescombe] and thus it returns to the first limit without Bodehurste on the east.'⁷ Within the Lowey the abbot was absolute and neither bishop nor royal officials could interfere.⁸ In 1296 the Lowey had been divided into the three boroughs or tithings of Uckham, Sandlake, and Mountjoy, and the hundred, or half-hundred, which by the accumulation of property in the hands of the abbey had extended its range beyond the Lowey, contained the vills of Telham, Glaseye (in Beckley), Barnhorne (in Bexhill), and Bucksteep (in Warbleton).⁹ Parts of Sedlescombe and Whatlington were within the tithing of Mountjoy,¹⁰ and there was also a tenement called Wisshouse in Ilkhurst belonging to Mountjoy although locally situated in the Hundred of Staple.¹¹ Their relative contributions of the vills were fixed in 1332 at Middleborough 44*s.* 3*d.*; Sandlake 77*s.* 6*d.*; Mountjoy 66*s.* 6*d.* and Telham 43*s.* 10*d.* Glaseye, Bucksteep, and Barnhorne had, however, apparently been detached by 1327,¹² the last-named being added to Bexhill. The Muster Roll for the rape of Hastings for 1539

¹ Pop. ret. 1831.

² Dugdale, *Mon.* iii, 243, 247.

³ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 394.

⁴ The Moynes held Wilting (q.v.).

⁵ Pookhold on a map of 1724; near Park Farm on the border of Catsfield parish.

⁶ The de Bodiams held Penhurst.

⁷ *Chron. of Battle Abbey* (ed. Lower), 14, 15.

⁸ *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 52; and see below.

⁹ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, 17; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* vi, 59.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* vi, 59, note.

¹² *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, 205, 317

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giving the totals in men for each hundred also shows the relative political importance of the vills in the hundred at that date: Battle being assessed at 34; Sandlake at 32; Sedlescombe at 7; Barnhorne with Mountjoy, Whatlington, Telham, Uckham, and Bucksteep 40.¹

The hundred belonged to the abbot of Battle² until the Dissolution, when it was granted with the abbey to Sir Anthony Browne, since when it has followed the descent of the manor (q.v.).

¹ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv, pt. 1, 298.

² Assize R. 912, m. 36 d.; *ibid.* 921, m. 4.



BATTLE ABBEY: THE GATEHOUSE, FROM THE NORTH

BATTLE

La Batailge (xi cent.); Batayle (xiv cent.); Bataill (xv cent.); Battell (xvi cent.).

The parish of Battle lies in a valley immediately north of Catsfield and Crowhurst about 7 miles north-west of Hastings. The old coach road from London to Hastings crosses the parish from north-east to south-west, dividing it into two nearly equal parts, while a branch road passes westward from the town to Catsfield and thence to Lewes. There is a station on the Tunbridge Wells and Hastings branch of the Southern Railway. The parish is well wooded, especially in the north and east. The land is undulating, varying from 100 to 400 ft., the average height being 200 ft. The subsoil is Hastings beds.

Netherfield, a hamlet 3 miles north-west of Battle, was formed into an ecclesiastical parish from the civil parish of Battle in 1862.

The small town lies chiefly north of the abbey, and the High Street runs in a north-westerly direction from the old market-place, a triangular space immediately north of the Abbey Gatehouse. At the south end, following the east side of the triangle, the road is deflected eastwards in a curve round the precincts wall between that and the parish church, being known as the Upper Lake and Lower Lake. At the south end of Lower Lake it returns to a course directly in line with the High Street, and it is noticeable that, but for the deviation, the road would have passed over the site of the Abbey Church.¹

Other roads branch off the east side to Whatlington and Sedlescombe and at the south end to Catsfield.

The triangle is now paved, but the old bull-ring remains in the centre. The buildings in it and the High Street are numbered consecutively from south to north on the west side, beginning with the cottage, by the Gatehouse, known as the 'Pilgrims' Rest'; they are continued down the east side from north to south. Many of the buildings have wide frontages—two bays or more—and some, built as single units, are now divided into two or more tenancies. Of the 92 numbered units about a third appear to be of the 17th century or earlier and about another score are of the 18th century. Although timber-framing was a common form of construction for the earlier buildings the only example of exposed framing being visible towards the street is in the 'Pilgrims' Rest'. The others are coated with plaster or hung with tiling. Of the apparently 18th-century buildings more than half are coated with plaster and may possibly in some cases be older than they appear; others of brick are more easy to date. Nearly all have tiled roofs.

The 'Pilgrims' Rest' is a timber-framed house standing back from the roadway, immediately north-east of the Abbey Gatehouse and facing approximately east. It was erected c. 1420 and has a middle hall of two 13½-ft. bays and a two-storied wing to the south: there was probably also a north wing but, if so, it was reconstructed in the 17th century. A first floor was inserted in the hall in the 16th century and a chimney built at the same time with a great fire-place. This floor and later partition have recently been removed, restoring the hall to almost its original condition. The east front

has closely set studding with main posts marking the bays and half-bays of the hall: the upper stories of the wings project, on the ends of floor joists, and the wall of the middle hall-block is coved out at the top to bring the eaves into the same plane as those of the wings, and there is a strut from the inner side of the south wing, below the wall plate. The original pointed entrance at the south end, of which half the arch was found in position, has now been opened out. In the north bay is a 16th-century window of six lights and a transom; the projecting frame is carried on curved brackets; the angle-posts are moulded and panelled and the sill, mullions, and transom are moulded: it is glazed with lead quarries. The framing of the jettied south wing includes curved struts from bressummer to outer posts: it has a modern window, but next it is the framing of a former small window. The south side of this wing was also jettied before the stone-built shed was added. The jettied upper story of the north wing has square framing and a four-light window of the 17th century, filled with leaded glazing. The roof is tiled and has hipped ends. Above it is a central chimney-stack of late-16th-century thin bricks, of the local type with rebated faces, and at the south end is a contemporary chimney. Internally the great hall has the remains of 15th-century wall-beams at both ends. In the east and west walls are the original posts dividing the two main bays and forming the legs of the principal roof-truss; only the post in the west (back) wall retains its mouldings. The truss has a moulded tie-beam with one of the original heavy curved braces under the west end and carries an octagonal king-post which has a moulded capital and base: from the king-post are curved four-way struts under a central purlin and collar-beams. All the timbers are smoke-blackened.

The Almonry² is a detached building facing north-east—for convenience called east in this account. It was once of a small courtyard plan, but a bake-house at the south-east angle has been pulled down by the present owner. The main block on the street is of the 15th century and perhaps the middle part was a one-storied hall. A north-west wing was added and a great central chimney-stack inserted about 1550, and the courtyard plan was completed probably late in the 17th century by the addition of offices on the south side. The main staircase dates from about 1670. The main block is now divided into a hall—the northernmost room—dining-room in the middle, and a kitchen at the south end. Open to the west of the hall is the staircase, in the north-west wing, the remainder of the wing being the drawing-room. The lower story is built of stone rubble on the front and side walls; the upper is of timber-framing hung with tiling, the south end of the main block being jettied. In the east front there are two blocked two-light windows and there are slight traces of a doorway in the middle. The other windows are modern. The modern entrance is in the north wall by the main staircase. The back parts are of 17th- and 18th-century brick. An oak oriel window to the courtyard lighting the room over the dining-room is carried on three carved grotesque brackets brought from Tewkesbury. The roofs are tiled. The central chimney-stack

¹ Attention called to this by Mr. J. E. Ray.

² The land on which this house was

built apparently belonged to the almoner, but there is no reason to suppose that the

house was anything but an ordinary dwelling.

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is of the usual local type with rebated faces and there is another at the west end of the north-west wing, both of thin bricks.

The hall has an open-timbered ceiling with a moulded cross-beam having splayed stops carved with fleurs-de-lis; the ceiling-joists are laid flatwise. The wide fire-place on the south side has canted stone reveals and a flat-arched oak lintel and has an iron fire-back decorated with a large pentagram, a crowned rose, and a fleur-de-lis. West of the fire-place is an arched doorway to the dining-room with a moulded oak frame. In the same corner, in the west side, is a similar doorway (opening to space under the stairs): both have doors of moulded feather battens. The walls of the room are lined with late-16th-century oak panelling. The west wall of the hall has been removed and replaced by a chamfered ceiling-beam so that the staircase beyond is open to the room. The stair has square newells with moulded and ball heads, turned and twisted balusters, and moulded handrail and sloping strings.

The dining-room has a chamfered ceiling-beam and exposed joists, later than those of the hall. The south wall has exposed framing and contains a doorway to the kitchen, with shaped brackets under the chamfered lintel, one ancient. The fire-place, 8 ft. wide, has canted stone reveals and an oak lintel: in the west reveal is a recess. The panelling of the dado is from elsewhere. A cupboard 4 ft. wide, east of the fire-place, was the former entrance lobby. The kitchen has no old features.

The drawing-room has a 16th-century ceiling divided by moulded beams into nine compartments: where they intercept one beam is scribed round the other. Below this room is a stone cellar having chamfered ceiling-beams with moulded stops. The stair down to it is in the narrow building forming the west side of the courtyard. This building has a passage-way through it and in the partly destroyed bake-house south of it is a huge fire-place and chimney of late-17th-century date.

In the first-floor rooms some of the wall-framing is exposed, and the chamfered tie-beams of roof-trusses with shaped posts and curved braces below them. The bedroom over the dining-room has a cupboard and closet with late-16th-century panelled doors and an old open-timbered ceiling. The room in the north-west wing has an old open-timbered ceiling and a 16th-century arched stone fire-place. An ancient feather-battened door leads to the room west of the courtyard, which has 15th-century moulded beams in its east and west walls as cornices, perhaps re-used. In its modern south wall is a small window transferred from the front of the house: it is of three lights with moulded mullions of the 16th century or earlier. Similar windows, one of four lights, were discovered in the old walls in 1936.

Nos. 33, 34, and 35 are shops and offices on the site of a gildhall said to have been used by the Mountjoy gild, one of the three medieval gilds of Battle.¹ Under the middle of the building is a vaulted cellar of early-14th-century date, 13½ ft. wide and of two 12-ft. bays in length. It has a chamfered cross-rib (forming a pointed arch) and diagonal ribs: they are carried on carved corbels with scroll-moulded abaci. The four in the angles represent women's heads. One of the middle corbels is carved with two monsters and contiguous human heads, one with a wimple, and the other with three human heads, a woman's and two men's, one on its side. The walls are of stone rubble. The brick

floor was raised about 5 ft. in 1832 and the corbels are only 1½ ft. above it. In the north-east wall towards the street are the remains of a former doorway and window. In the north-west end wall is a recess with rebated jambs and hooks for a small door or window: a blocked flue rises a short way above it. The present entrance is by a roughly cut piercing in the south-east end wall from which rise brick steps to a trap-door in the ground floor. The building above is of mid-16th-century date, remodelled later. It had originally an overhanging upper story. The south-east shop, no. 33, has an open-timbered ceiling, showing the position of the former front wall, and a wide stone fire-place. The next room, partly above the cellar, has also an open-timbered ceiling; the front wall of this and the remainder is of brick plastered. One of the rooms on the first floor is lined with panelling of c. 1720: it was once decorated with painted oval medallions, &c., but these are practically hidden by modern oil-paint. The tiled roof is of 18th-century reconstruction.

Nos. 59 and 60, a shop and store, have externally little to indicate age. Inside the shop are two 15th-century moulded ceiling-beams, one with die-out stops, and the covered side-passage has exposed ancient ceiling-joists. The original roof construction remains with cambered tie-beams and strutted king-posts carrying the central purlin and collar-beams. Other beams have been re-used as side purlins, &c.; one contains the mortices for the diamond-shaped mullions of a three-light window.

Nos. 57 and 58 is another much altered late-16th-century building. The walls above the shop-fronts are of timber-framing covered with tile-hanging or plaster. The front is of two double bays and the plan is L-shaped. There is a great chimney-stack between the front block and back wing: it is 9 ft. thick and next it is a good well-staircase of late-17th-century date. The room in the back wing is lined with late-16th-century panelling and in the overmantel above the wide fire-place in the great chimney-stack is carved panelling of the 17th century. The upper story of the wing has a square bay window with moulded mullions and posts like that at the 'Pilgrims' Rest'. The upper rooms have open-timbered ceilings.

No. 27 (opposite nos. 56 and 57) is a tall building dated on a panel above the doorway, 1688, and mostly of stone said to have come from an abbey building, probably the kitchen, pulled down in 1685;² it was formerly the Bull Hotel. The front is of old ashlar with a stone plinth and a string-course at the first floor level of red and black bricks. The topmost courses are also of brick and the eaves have a moulded cornice of wood with square modillions. Three of the four windows in the second story have original oak frames and mullions. Inside is a fine staircase with 2½ in. turned balusters and square newells with ball-tops.

No. 22 is a plaster-fronted timber-framed building of early-17th-century origin: part of the moulded bressummer to the former overhanging upper story is still visible. The shop front has an 18th-century bow window. In the upper story is a 17th-century staircase like that at no. 27.

No. 20 is another early-17th-century building, much altered. The eaves have a moulded cornice of wood. The side passage has exposed ceiling-joists and in the upper story much of the old framing of the front has been exposed inside. No. 66, opposite no. 20, is about the same period but again much altered; the timber-

¹ Information by Major Buckwell, whose offices are in the building (no. 35).

² Thorpe, *Battle Abbey Charters*, 163.

framed upper story is covered with tile-hanging; the shop front below is built out and has a pentice. The chimney-stack at the back contains a wide fire-place with chimney-corner seats. A fire-place in the attic has a raised oak curb. Old framing is exposed internally and there are two or three original doors. No. 66*a* is a long narrow building in the yard behind no. 66. It is of c. 1620-30 and has a timber-framed upper story, underbuilt with brick. At its west end is a late-17th-century addition of brick covered with tile-hanging, and having below it a vaulted cellar.

No. 17 is a large three-storied house, dated 1700. The front is plastered and has a moulded string-course at the first floor level. At the eaves is a wooden entablature with egg-and-tongue ornament, enriched brackets, and moulded cornice. The middle doorway has a moulded architrave and a flat hood carrying a balcony. The upper windows have moulded architraves and projecting frames and that to the balcony also has a scrolled broken pediment. In the tiled roof are dormer-windows with pediments and behind the ridge is a heavy square chimney-stack of brick with panelled faces and a moulded cornice: on the front of the cornice is fixed the date 1700 in large metal figures. The chief feature inside is the staircase which, except for the lowest flight now removed, rises to the top floor. The stair is of well type with 2 in. turned balusters, and plain square newels with moulded caps and turned pendants.

Nos. 76, 77, and 78 are three shops formed from a long two-storied building, probably of 16th- or 17th-century origin, which appears to have been formerly an inn and has a large amount of cellarage as well as disused stables, &c., at the back. The front is cemented. In the middle shop are two moulded beams of the 15th century, probably brought from a former abbey building. No. 79 is also of the 17th century but has been much renovated. It is a low two-storied building used as tea-rooms, &c. The upper story is tile-hung and has a moulded cornice.

On the east side of the triangle Ticehurst House and Langton House were originally one large two-storied building of late-16th-century date which was heightened with another story about 1700. The lower two stories of the main block, about 18 yards long, are rectangular in plan, but the later top story is recessed in the middle so as to form a projecting wing at either end with a balustrade between them. The lowest story has been rebuilt with brick of the 18th century, the upper walls are of timber-framing but hung with tile-facing: at the first floor level is a moulded wood bressummer or fascia. The top story has an 18th-century moulded wooden cornice with modillions. The southern entrance, to Langton House, has fluted pilasters, and an entablature and pediment. In this house the framing of the walls is exposed inside and shows the original height. The entrance passage-way has some re-set wall panelling, most of it of late-16th-century date: the faces of most of the panels are carved with a conventional foliage pattern in very low relief. In the middle room is a 17th-century overmantel with diamond-shaped panels. The northernmost room—in Ticehurst House—has a fine Elizabethan ceiling of plaster: it has moulded ribs forming interlacing circular patterns: the bosses covering the intersections are enriched with fleurs-de-lis, Tudor roses, &c. The room is also lined with late-16th-century panelling.

Nos. 87 and 88 form a low building of two stories with a 40-ft. frontage to the street and a back wing which is built askew to provide a passage between that

and the next house, which is older. It was probably built about 1600, but the front block is a 17th-century addition parallel with the original main block: the whole however, has been much renovated. The front has a lower story of late-17th-century red and black bricks and a tile-hung upper story. The back wall is partly of stone. The back-wing, which is also built partly of stone, has an open-timbered ceiling and wide fire-place with a chamfered curved oak lintel: above it is a fine square chimney-stack of thin bricks.

Nos. 89 and 90, now two shops of some 60-ft. frontage, was built in the 15th century but is almost entirely of modern appearance externally. The eastern shop has a 15th-century moulded cross-beam and other chamfered ceiling-beams, one running diagonally to the southern corner to support a former overhang on the front. At the back of the shop is a staircase with several flat silhouette balusters of the 16th century. In the western house is a large fire-place. The roof space of the main block was originally divided into four bays of 15 ft. by trusses with moulded tie-beams, king-posts with four-way struts under a central purlin and collar-beams. The common rafters have scissors-braces. The trusses are in their original positions, but are all imperfect or obscured by later construction.

No. 91, 'Senlac House', is a much-altered house with plastered walls, and shop-fronts, but at its east end it retains a 16th-century projecting chimney-stack of stone with gathered-in sides and a brick shaft. Inside there is a stone fire-place with moulded jambs having base-stops, and a Tudor arch with foiled spandrels. No. 92, 'Old House', is a plaster-fronted house showing old timber-framing in the west end wall dating probably from the 17th century. The eaves have a later wooden cornice with modillions.

Upper Lake contains several medieval buildings all much altered.

Nos. 4 and 5, on the north side, were one building originally, of late-14th-century date. It had a central hall of two 10 ft. bays with a wing of about 14½ ft. in width at each end. The lower stories of the wings were flush with the hall in front, but their upper stories projected, so that externally it resembled the 'Pilgrims' Rest'. A central chimney and an upper floor were inserted in the hall in Tudor times and, later, wings were added at the back. Subsequently the house was divided into two tenements. The west half, no. 4, is of two stories, the lower mostly of modern brick, the upper covered with tile-hanging. The high-pitched roof is tiled and is continued over the east half, no. 5, which has a front of whitened brickwork. The central chimney of the whole building is in this half and is a square stack of late-16th-century bricks. The east end is of 18th-century red and black bricks to the lower story, the upper being tile-hung and half-gabled. Inside the better-preserved west half the lower story has a 14th-century moulded ceiling beam on the wall which formed the end of the hall. The shop occupying the site of the west half of the hall has a 16th-century open-timbered ceiling and in the east wall a wide fire-place with a heavy chamfered oak lintel, in the inserted chimney-stack. The west wing was divided into two rooms, back and front, and the morticed ceiling-beam for the partition still exists. Exposed wall-framing shows that the wing was jettied, but the other walls have been brought out to the same face. In the roof the original middle truss remains in place: it has a king-post with a moulded capping and quadrant-curved struts below a

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central purlin and collar-beams. The east half, no. 5, retains a few traces of the original east bay of the hall roof altered for the inserted chimney-stack. But the roof over the former east wing is of the 17th century and the first floor has ceiling-beams of the same period, and a six-panelled door. The lower story has little evidence of age, but there is a cellar with ancient masonry below the back part of the wing.

Nos. 17, 18, and 19, nearly opposite, formed another building of the same type as nos. 4 and 5, with jettied wings, but of slightly later date. The front, all plastered, is now all in one plane, the wall of the original hall having been brought out to line with the projecting upper stories as in nos. 4 and 5, and the wings underbuilt. The middle block or site of the hall has a 15th-century moulded and embattled beam in the west wall of the lower story and the ceiling has exposed timbers of later date. The longitudinal beam which marks the original front wall of the hall has the mortices for the posts and diamond-shaped mullions of a former window. The exposed timber-framing in the upper walls tells of the former projecting of the wings, and the roof retains the 15th-century construction with plain tie-beams, strutted king-posts, central purlin, &c.

In no. 16, the adjoining house, the roof, although retaining evidence of its late-15th- or early-16th-century origin, has been more altered. The front has an overhanging upper story, tile-hung, mostly underbuilt with two shop-fronts. Part of the moulded bressummer is exposed. The lower rooms have stop-chamfered ceiling-beams and some of the framing of the upper walls is visible. The roof, of two 13½-ft. bays, has square tie-beams and strutted king-posts of the original construction, but the upper halves of the trusses, &c. have been destroyed. The original stop-chamfered wall-plate of the back wall remains in place. At the back is a 17th-century wing. The adjoining private hotel, formerly nos. 13-15, also retains the roof of a 15th-century building of two 15-ft. bays with strutted king-posts and longitudinal struts below a central purlin. This building appears to have been a wing with a jettied end towards the street; in the lowest story is a mid-15th-century moulded and embattled beam, but otherwise the building has been completely renovated. The eastern part of the hotel is said also to have had a medieval roof (now destroyed) and was probably in part the hall of the building. The Chequers Hotel, on the south side of the road at the junction of Upper and Lower Lake, may also be of medieval origin, but later alterations and additions have practically obscured all the evidence. The plan is L-shaped, and the principal signs of age are in the back wing, of 16th- or 17th-century date, which has an open-timbered ceiling and a large fire-place (now reduced) with an arched oak lintel. The central chimney is a huge block and has an L-shaped stack of early-17th-century bricks.

Lower Lake has buildings mostly of the 18th or 19th century, but one or two are probably earlier, notably the row of two-storied cottages, nos. 38, 39, and 40, in which are some open-timbered ceilings of the 17th century.

Mount Street is the beginning of the road running northwards to Whatlington and adjoining the north end of the High Street. It contains several buildings which may be allocated to the 17th-century, chiefly on the evidence of their chimney-stacks or open-timbered ceilings.

Phillips's Buildings, farther north on the east side of the Whatlington road, is a large rambling structure now

divided into many working-class tenements. It may once have been an inn, and is probably of late-16th-century origin. The main plan is of a modified H shape, with the west wing on the street front: the middle block has been widened to the north, and has on its south side twin-gabled short wings occupying apparently the former courtyard. The walls are mostly covered with weather-boarding. The wings have gabled ends, and below the gable end of the middle block appearing in the east elevation is some exposed timber-framing, on old stone foundations. On the west side of the east wing—towards the former courtyard—is a fine projecting chimney-stack of late-16th-century date: it is reduced in width by crow-stepping on its south side, and finishes with a tall, square shaft which has a V-shaped pilaster in each face; it has a moulded base and oversailing top courses.

The Deanery stands north of the parish church. It was built, probably soon after the suppression of the abbey, as a residence for the incumbent. The plan of the main block was a long and narrow rectangle—about 68 ft. by 21 ft.—with a middle entrance on the south front, and, near each end of the front, a bay-window of the full height of the wall. About 1670 Dr. William Watson added the stables against the west end and rearranged the interior. Another incumbent, Dr. Crake, about 1860 made additions at the back and built the porch in the south front, resetting the stonework of the old doorway in his new wall.

The building is of two stories and attics and has walls of red brick with rusticated stone quoins at the main angles and in the bay-windows. At the second-floor level of the south front is a stone string-course and moulded cornice and above this an embattled parapet which passes round the bays and rises in the middle as a crow-stepped gable. There are two lead rain-water pipes and heads with fleurs-de-lis and dates and initials WW 1669. The entrance to the low porch is of Dr. Watson's time (*c.* 1670) and has moulded stone jambs and a square head; it is flanked by half-round Ionic pilasters which carry an enriched entablature and a pediment. The oak door in it is of the 16th century: it is six-panelled with moulded framing, nail-studded, and mounted on horizontal back rails. On it is an old Sussex iron vertical bolt. The bay-windows have canted sides, and between them, in the lower story, are two windows on each side of the entrance, and, on the upper floor, three windows, all of three lights. All are of stone with moulded mullions; above the lower windows is a moulded drip-course. In the middle gable is a two-light window to the third story. The west wall incorporates some old masonry and has a great chimney-stack projecting from it; this is gathered in at the sides with many courses of tabling and carries a brick shaft. The east wall also has a projecting brick stack.

There is little original detail to note inside. The large western room, formerly the kitchen, has a great fire-place, now with black marble dressings. The eastern room has a small stone fire-place with a Tudor arch. All the ceiling-beams are encased. On the first floor the eastern room has a fire-place similar to that below.

Mill House, north of the town on the west side of the Whatlington road, is a reconditioned house of early-17th-century date. The lower story is of modern brick, the upper is tile-hung. There are two original chimney-stacks of the local rebated type. The house next north is another reconditioned 17th-century house with an original chimney-stack. The front has false timber-

framing. Behind the last two buildings is a tapering octagonal windmill of stone with a weather-boarded wood top. It retains the arms of the sails but no blades.

Lower Marley, formerly a farm-house, on the west side of the Sedlescombe road, about a mile east of the town, bears the initials F. H. and the date 1687.¹ The walls are built of much earlier re-used masonry, probably from the Abbey. The main rooms have original ceiling-beams, but in the back wing is a re-used moulded beam of the 14th century. The roof has trusses of queen-post type and has many ancient timbers brought from elsewhere; one is a moulded door-post with a moulded base. A number of medieval stones found in the house walls now lie loose in the back part: one is a grotesque beast-head corbel, another a gargoyle carved as a bird, another a large moulded piece of a 14th-century window-jamb.

Rat Farm,² about a mile north of the town to the west of the London road, is of two stories and attics and dates probably from the late 16th century. The lower story of the old part is of stone rubble and once had a porch on the north-west front, as indicated by straight joints in the masonry. The upper story is tile-hung. The back wall, now enclosed by a later addition, has ancient timber-framing. The central chimney-stack is rebated and has a V-shaped pilaster: it has a great stone fire-place with a chamfered oak lintel. The rooms have open-timbered ceilings.

Great Beeches, about 1½ miles west of the town, is a square building of about 1600 of brick with stone quoins and stone-mullioned windows. In the north-west front is a porch. The central chimney is original and has in it a great wide fire-place of brick with an arched oak lintel and back to back to it a smaller fire-place of stone. A broken iron fire-back has the royal arms of Edward III.

North of the last is a mill-house of mid- to late-18th-century date with later alterations. There was formerly an iron-foundry on the site and pieces of slag and rough castings are still found in the soil.

Telham High Farm, on the north side of the Catsfield road, is of the early 17th century but much altered. It has a fine central chimney-stack of thin bricks with V-shaped and flat pilasters: the stack is flanked by 18th- or 19th-century supplementary shafts. The house contains a good staircase of c. 1660 with 2¼-in. turned balusters and square newels with ball-heads.

Peppering Eye, a farm-house near the south edge of the parish, is of 16th-century origin, considerably enlarged about the middle of the 17th century and, at the back, in the 18th century. The house, with brick and tile-hung walls, faces south. The oldest part is the eastern half, which has some masked timber-framing: the eastern gable-head has an original moulded barge-board carved with a pattern of running foliage. Inside this part can be seen the coeval timber-framing and the tie-beams of roof-trusses dividing it into two bays of about 12 ft. each: the upper parts of the trusses are hidden. One stop-chamfered ceiling-beam is 13 in. wide. The western half is of greater width than the other and also has 17th-century open-timbered ceilings. Some of its original framing can be seen in the back wall covered by the 18th-century additions.

¹ In 1690 Thomas Langley had a lease of 'the messuage newly built called Marley House': Thorpe, *Cat. of Battle Charters*, 166.

² References to the land of Rette occur in the abbey muniments from the 13th century onwards.

³ *Chron. of Battle Abbey* (ed. Lower), 16 et seq.

⁴ *Ibid.* 20.

⁵ *Subsidies* (Suss. Rec. Soc.), 205.

⁶ *Cartae Antiquae*, G. (1); *ibid.* O. o. 2; Harl. Ch. 83 A. 12.

Beauport in the south-east of the parish is the seat of Sir Archibald Lamb, bart., J.P. The house was built at different periods by three owners: Mr. Denham, General Murray, Governor of Quebec in 1759, and Sir Charles Lamb. The park, enclosed by Sir Charles Lamb, contains 900 acres and commands extensive sea views.

The town of Battle owes its origin to the abbey founded there by William I. In the erection of this abbey and in the subsequent maintenance of the monastic community large numbers of workmen and artificers would necessarily be employed, for whom accommodation had to be provided, and thus a town gradually sprang up around the monastic buildings. The arrangement of the town from a very early date appears to have been in regular streets, and a list of these together with the tenants and the rents which each paid is recorded in the *Chronicle of Battle Abbey*.³ By the twelfth century there were 115 householders; some of these were officials, others employed on the land—as a gardener, 2 swineherds and a miller, and many artificers—as 5 shoemakers, 2 smiths, 2 carpenters, 3 cooks, 2 bakers, a weaver, a goldsmith, and 'Aedric who cast the bells'. And, according to the chronicler, 'from the very great dignity of the place they were called burgesses'.⁴ There was, however, no formal incorporation, and no burgesses are ever heard of again.

From the beginning of the 14th century, and probably earlier, the town of Battle was divided into the 'boroughs' or tithings of Sandlake, or Sanglake, Middleburgh, and Monjoye or Mountjoy.⁵ Their boundaries are obscure, but Middleburgh seems to have included the market-place and the district west of the High Street; Mountjoy was north of the market and east of the street, extending into Whatlington; and Sandlake, of which the name is perpetuated in Upper and Lower Lake and, less fortunately, in the 'Senlac' which Professor Freeman mistakenly adopted from Orderic as the name for the Battle of Hastings, lay east and south of the abbey.

William I, in the charters attributed to him, granted and confirmed to the abbey of Battle its Lowey (*Leuga*), and all its manors and possessions 'to be free and quit for ever from every custom of earthly service'.⁶ Subsequently courts of gaol delivery were held in Battle by the justices in eyre as in towns holding the status of counties.⁷

The coroner for the liberty of Battle was appointed by the abbot until the Dissolution, after which the lord of the manor had the right of appointment.⁸ Until a few years ago the court leet was regularly held and the officers appointed, but this has now been discontinued.

In 1272, when complaint was made that the abbot had encroached on the king's way in the 'vill of Battel', the abbot stated that the king's bailiffs had no right to enter the Lowey; he added that the encroachments were made only on heath and waste, and that the king's way was sufficiently wide as it contained 10 perches. His claim was allowed.⁹ In 1324 the king's officer entered the town of Battle and held pleas of the market. The abbot again disputed the right of any royal official to interfere, pleading successfully the charter of William I granting him the right to manage his own affairs.¹⁰

⁷ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* vi, 60.

⁸ *Ibid.* xvii, 41.

⁹ *Assize R.* 912, m. 37.

¹⁰ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxvi, 167, from a Latin roll dated 31 Edw. III, in 1875 in the possession of H. B. Gardner Hickman.

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Among other grants attributed to William I was the right to hold a market on Sundays free from all toll and exaction.¹ This market was in 1566 changed to Thursday,² but has now been discontinued. In 1670 a cattle-market was established in Battle to be held every second Tuesday in the month, the reason given for its establishment being that Battle was '50 miles from London and the intermediate towns had good accommodation for man and beast'.³ Fairs were formerly held on Whit-Monday and on 22 November and the two following days, but the Whitsun one was abolished in 1875.⁴

Three gilds existed in Battle at an early date: one was in Sandlake and was called the gild of St. Martin, a second was in the west of the town in Claverham, while a third was outside the town *ad opus rusticorum*. The abbot was a member of these gilds but attended the meetings by deputy. He was also exempt from the gild payment on the burial of members. At stated times in the year the members were compelled to provide tapers for the high altar of St. Martin.⁵

By the 17th century, if not earlier, ironworks had been established in Battle. In 1623 Beech, in this parish, was one of the fifteen furnaces in Sussex where 'guns or shotte in the late wars for the supply of his mai'es stores' were made.⁶ In 1724 'Beach furnace near Netherfield' was leased for nine years to Sir Thomas Webster, bart.,⁷ the lord of the manor of Battle.

The manufacture of gunpowder added greatly to the importance of the town during the 17th and 18th centuries. The leading gunpowder factory was at Battle and at one time had the highest reputation, Defoe mentioning about 1750 that 'the finest Gunpowder and the best perhaps in Europe' was made there. Soon after this the manufacture in Battle began to decline.⁸

The story has already been told of *BATTLE ABBEY* the founder's intention that the abbey should be built upon the site of the battle; how monks who came from Marmoutier, objecting to the site, began to erect the monastery where there was shelter and water; and how the king, hearing of this, was exceedingly wroth, and ordered that the abbey was to be built where he had stipulated, with the high altar on the spot where King Harold fell.⁹ There is little doubt that this order was carried out, for the original high altar was on the highest point of the site and the ground falls away rapidly to the south and east, so that the later builders, when they came to enlarge the buildings, had to resort to cellarage to bring the floors to the required levels.

The *Precinct* apparently contained some 20 acres. The precinct wall remains for 720 ft. along the north side; the site of it on the east and west is more or less

defined, but on the south side it has disappeared. The wall that remains is about 20 ft. in height and is buttressed along its length; it is now finished by a plain coping, but was presumably battlemented in the first place, and along part of it still remains a rampart walk.

The Gatehouse. Towards the west end, on the north side, of the precinct the great gatehouse still remains in tolerable completeness. It is 29 ft. from east to west by 24 ft. deep, and was built by Abbot Alan after he obtained licence to crenellate the abbey in 1338. It is in the form of a square tower with octagonal turrets at each angle. In the north face is a large doorway of entrance for carts and a smaller one, to the west, for foot-passengers. Inside it is vaulted in two bays, but there is no structural division between the two passages. In the south face are open arches opposite the doorways. Over the gate is a large hall, gained by a vice in the south-west turret and by a straight stair through a small porch opposite the south-east turret. There is a large fire-place in the west wall and garderobes in the northern turrets. Externally the first floor is covered with rich wall panelling and the middle panel in each face is pierced for a window.¹⁰ The second floor contains another similar hall which is lighted by a two-light window in each face and is entered by the vice. The walls are finished by battlements and the turrets have had battlements added to them since 1840.

On the west side of the gatehouse was, and is, the porter's lodge. Beyond it westward is a second chamber, of the 12th century, which has in the west wall of its first floor a complete window of that date.

On the east side of the gatehouse is a long range of building of two stories, built by Sir Anthony Browne,¹¹ and in it were kept the courts of the manor. It takes the place of a monastic building which was doubtless the almonry. At the east end are remains of a building which also show some Norman work in the outer walls.

The claustral buildings are unusually close to the north wall of the precinct. This seems to have been caused through the site of the high altar being fixed and the desire to deflect the pre-existing road, which crossed the site of the church, as little as possible. The church was on the north side of the cloister, the infirmary to the east, the abbot's house was on the west, and the guest-house to the south-west.

The Church. The original church was of no great size, it being only 224 ft. from the extreme east end to the west wall. It consisted of a short eastern arm, terminated by an apse with ambulatory aisle and three semicircular radiating chapels, a transept with a single semicircular apse to each arm, and a nave of seven bays with aisles. The south-west angle of this church remains incorporated with the present house, and part of the south aisle wall remains.¹² The aisle was covered by an unribbed vault with wide cross arches at each pier. The springing of the arcade was about 16 ft. above the floor level.

The site of the church has not yet all been cleared by excavation, but the main eastern apse and that of the north transept were uncovered in 1929.

The piers of the main apse were carried upon a sleeper



BATTLE ABBEY. Gules a cross or between two crowns or in the first and fourth quarters and two swords argent with hilts and pommels or in the second and third and a mitre azure upon the cross.

¹ Dugdale, *Mon.* iii, 245.

² Stat. 8 Eliz. cap. 14.

³ *Cal. S. P. Dom.* 1660-70, p. 194.

⁴ *Lond. Gaz.* 27 April 1875.

⁵ *Chron. of Battle Abbey* (ed. Lower), 24, 25; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvii, 8.

⁶ *Ibid.* xviii, 15; *ibid.* ii, 207.

⁷ *Ibid.* 246; Straker, *Wealden Iron*, 325.

⁸ *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 238; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiv, 109-22.

⁹ *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 52.

¹⁰ Single lights in the SW. and NE. corners of the chamber were similarly pierced.

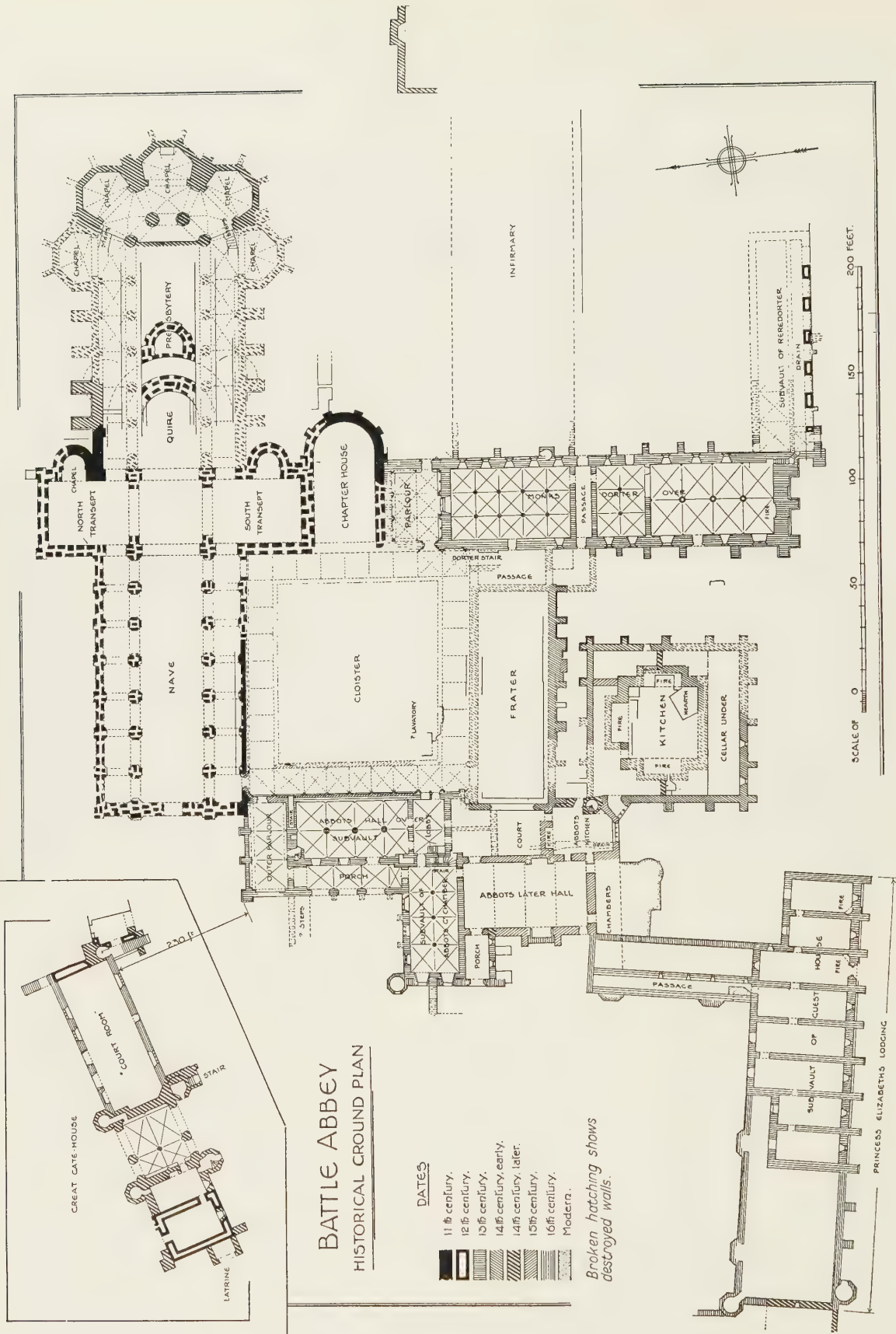
¹¹ Alternatively this may be the new

buildings 'at the gate of the almonry constructed in 1519-20 (Almoner's accounts) and adapted by Sir Anthony.

¹² The site of this aisle and part of the nave was removed in the last century to some 3 ft. below its floor level to form a roadway.



BATTLE ABBEY: DORTER SUBVAULT, LOOKING SOUTH



wall 8 ft. in width. The eastern chapel was 11½ ft. across and had pilaster buttresses on the outside, but the other two chapels had been almost obliterated by later works. The transept was about 115 ft. from north to south. The eastern chapel of the north transept was 11 ft. wide and had a plinth on the inside face.

In the early years of the 14th century a new presbytery was built. It was of seven bays with aisles and had a semi-octagonal apse, surrounded by five semi-octagonal-ended chapels.¹ It was 152 ft. in length from the crossing to the end of the easternmost chapel, 62 ft. in width including the aisles, and made the total length of the completed church 311 ft. Under the three middle chapels and the main apse was a crypt, vaulted with semi-octagonal ribs, and approached by steps from the side aisles of the presbytery.² The crypts of the chapels had altars and the piscinae of two still remain. The crypt was exposed in the early years of the last century. The arcades of the presbytery were carried upon sleeper walls 10 ft. in width. The aisles had very large buttresses, indicating that the main span was vaulted and supported by flying buttresses over the aisles. The middle part only of the presbytery has yet been traced by excavation.³

The monk's quire in the first church was beneath the crossing and in the first bays of the nave, but it was moved into the eastern arm when it was enlarged, and the foundations of the stalls have been found.

Near the church was a detached bell-tower which is mentioned in the grant of the site to Sir Anthony Browne. This apparently stood to the east of the church, in or close to the cemetery, as in a survey of 1430 the first house in Middle Borough on the north of the street was 'opposite the wall of the cemetery' and the second 'opposite the great bell-tower'.⁴ Bells called 'Mary' and 'Gabriel' are referred to in 1515, 'le Whyppe' in 1519, and 'Jesus' in 1523.⁵

The Cloister was on the south side of the nave. It was 112 ft. from east to west by 104 ft. from north to south, and was surrounded by alleys on each side. The alleys are recorded to have been rebuilt by Abbot Walter de Luci with 'marble slabs and columns of smooth and polished workmanship'. He had intended to build a lavatory of the same character and had engaged workmen for the purpose when he died in 1172, but left money to finish the work. No evidence of this building has been found, after a diligent search, except some very indefinite foundations. In the 13th century a general enlargement of all the monastic buildings was undertaken and the cloister alleys were begun to be rebuilt as part of the scheme. Apparently the east and south alleys were completed, with two bays of the west alley, but the remainder⁶ was not finished until about 1421, when John Lowe settled land in Iridge on himself and his wife Margaret with a clause that after their death it should be sold and the proceeds devoted to the 'new work of

the cloister or to complete it in the style in which it had been begun'.⁷

The back wall of the east alley was panelled, probably with simple tracery in the arch of each bay, and was supported upon Purbeck marble columns. Some of these columns were barely 3 in. in diameter and the bases of those of the southernmost bay remain. Nothing remains of the south alley, but the panelling of these two southern bays of the west alley remains, and is treated in each bay with a pair of arches with circles in the spandrels decorated with cusping. The remaining seven bays of the west alley have wall panelling, each of four divisions with upright tracery in the arch, and have attached columns to carry the vaulting. The western bay of the north alley was treated similarly and in it was the western procession doorway, but nothing remains to shew that the rest of this alley was of the same character.

The Chapter-house. The south transept covered the east side of the cloister some 28 ft., and adjoining it, in the first place, was the chapter-house. This was 30 ft. wide with an apsidal end with pilaster buttresses on the outside. The south wall and over half of the apse have been traced by excavation. It is uncertain if this original chapter-house remained to the end, as there is a thick wall running eastward from the north side of the apse that may be part of a chapter-house of the same date as the rest of the eastern range.

The Parlour. Adjoining the chapter-house was the parlour, which is of an unusual plan; it was 33½ ft. from east to west by 24 ft. wide. It was covered with a vault three bays in length by two in width carried by marble columns, on the side walls, that rested on stone seats. The walls were panelled similarly to the cloister. It was entered from the cloister, in the southern bay at the west end, by an archway of three orders, of which the outer were carried by marble columns, and the bases of the southern jamb remain. Opposite this, in the east wall, was a doorway of two orders that led to the infirmary. In the middle bay of the south side was a large opening leading down by steps to the dorter sub-vault.

Dorter Subvault. Southward of the parlour the eastern range is complete, except for its roof, and is one of the finest examples in the country.

Next the parlour, but 7 ft. below it, is a chamber 56 ft. from north to south by 33½ ft. wide. It is of five bays and the vaulting is supported upon two rows of slender marble columns. It is lighted by wide lancet windows in the east wall and one in the west wall. It is entered by a round-headed doorway in the west side, a second doorway at the south end, and by the wide entrance from the parlour. There are remains of a seat against the north wall. This chamber must have been the common-room or warming-house, but there is no sign of a fire-place.⁸

¹ Chapels of Holy Cross (1515) and St. Thomas (1525) are mentioned in the Sacrist's accounts, as well as the Lady Chapel, of which the stone vault was repaired and a new wooden roof made and covered with lead in 1509. The roof of the south part of the church was covered with shingles in 1410 and 1434.

² This crypt was presumably the *voltus Sancti Benigni* mentioned in the Sacrist's accounts of 1512-13, where was kept the shrine of that saint, the chief centre of offerings in the church. Other offerings are recorded, between 1511 and 1524, at

the tomb of Abbot Odo, the Holy Cross in the nave, St. Apollonia in the Lady Chapel, SS. Martin, Stephen, Paul, Blaise, James, Michael, Giles, Roch, Benedict, Catherine, St. Mary of Pity, and 'the child-bearing of Mary'.

³ When the sanatorium of the school was built it is said that some coffins were found, but no particulars of them were taken at the time.

⁴ Aug. Off. Misc. Bks. 56, fol. 17.

⁵ Sacrist's accounts. For access to photostats of these rolls, which are in the Huntington Library, California, we are indebted

to the London School of Economics.

⁶ Over £31 were spent on the cloister in 1346-7: Abbot's accounts.

⁷ For a photostat of this deed, in the Huntington Library, we are indebted to Mr. S. P. Vivian.

⁸ At Durham, though the fire in the common-house is definitely stated to have been kept in cold weather up to the Suppression, there is no sign of a fire-place; no evidence of a fire-place occurs at Bardney where there is also documentary evidence that a fire was kept. At Westminster there is no fire-place in the warming-house,

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South of the last chamber is a passage through the range, covered by a barrel vault, and at each end is a simple round-headed doorway. South of the passage is a second chamber, similar to the first, but only 22½ ft. from north to south. It is entered by a round-headed doorway from the passage; there is a similar doorway, opening outwards in the east wall, and a third doorway in the south wall.

The southern end of the range is occupied by a chamber 58 ft. in length and some 9 ft. below the level of the last chamber. It is vaulted in four bays and has a single row of large marble columns down the middle. In the south wall are remains of a large fire-place, but the chamber is too far away from the cloister for the warming-house, and it was probably for the accommodation of the novices. In the south bay of the west side is a large pointed window that was divided by a column supporting two arches, with a quatrefoil in the head. In the next bay is a lancet window, and in the third bay a large pointed doorway of two orders, with a lancet above. In the north bay was a similar window to that in the south bay, but it has been altered into a doorway, with a segmental head and a little pointed window above. In the three northern bays of the east wall are tall lancet windows with transoms, and in the southern bay is a round-headed doorway, 9 ft. above the floor level, leading to a building without. In the south-east angle is a small doorway with a flight of steps up to a garderobe over the drain. In the east wall, at 12 ft. from the south end, are remains of a vaulting shaft, which seems to imply that this chamber was intended in the first place to have been vaulted from two rows of columns like the rest.

The Dorter occupied the whole of the first floor of the range, southward of the parlour. It was entered by steps against the west wall, in the Cistercian manner, and through a pointed doorway of two orders with nook shafts and foliated capitals. The dorter was lighted by tall lancet windows on either side, one to each cell; each had a transom, so that the lower part could be fitted with a shutter for ventilation, and the upper part was glazed. At the south end are a pair of similar windows, and over these, in the gable, are three lancets, with a small one in the apex above.

In the south-east angle are a pair of round-headed doorways for entrance to and exit from the rere-dorter. Against the eighth bay from the south, on the east side, is a vice in a projecting turret that led from the ground to the dorter, and was possibly to allow the prior, after blessing the convent, to return to his lodging in the infirmary.

The roof¹ is said to have fallen down some time in the early years of the last century.

Externally there are bold buttresses and the wall is finished by a table of large corbels of unusual design.

The Rere-dorter projected eastward from the south end of the dorter and half its width is beyond the south end of this range. It was at least 100 ft. in length by 23½ ft. in width and the latrines were over the drain on the south side. The ground story was vaulted and had lancet windows in the north wall. The south wall was carried by a series of round-headed arches open to the drain. At the west end, over the drain, was a small

vaulted chamber containing latrines, gained, by the wall stair already mentioned, from the subvault.

The Frater was on the ground level and occupied most of the south side of the cloister. It was 98 ft. from east to west by 33 ft. in width, and seems to have been built as soon as the abbot's house was finished. The west end remains incorporated in the present house, but it has been much mutilated by windows, inserted in the first place by Sir Anthony Browne. It had two tiers of richly decorated wall panelling and in the gable above was a great window, of which the jambs were found embedded in the wall of the present house. There remains a fragment of the south wall with the west jamb of one of the side windows, which on the inside had slender marble columns with marble bases, bands, and capitals. The foundations of the side walls have been traced and are marked by paving in the turf. There were deep buttresses between each bay, of which that at the west end remains to its full height. Towards the east end of the south side was a projection to take the pulpit. The east wall remains in part, 16 ft. to the west of the dorter range. The space so formed contained the dorter stairs and a passage, and was covered by a flat roof, of which a portion of the weathering remains on the dorter wall.

The Kitchen was in its usual position south of the frater; it was slightly later in date than the frater and measured no less than 70 ft. square. It consisted of the kitchen in the middle, provided with fire-places and ovens, surrounded by a low aisle, covered by a flat roof, that contained the sculleries and other offices. Under the south aisle was a barrel-vaulted chamber, necessitated by the fall of the ground, and of this the west end remains, lighted by small windows. The kitchen was retained at the suppression, for the use of the house, and was not pulled down until 1685.

*The Abbot's House.*² The west side of the cloister was occupied by the abbot's house, which was entirely rebuilt in the 13th century. It is now incorporated with the present house and is one of the most complete buildings of the kind in the country.

At the north end was the outer parlour. It is 41 ft. from east to west by 18 ft. wide, and is vaulted in three bays. The vaulting springs from short columns supported on stone seats, that formerly existed along the side walls. The entrance in the west wall is destroyed and the doorway into the cloister is a modern one of the last century. In the south wall is a wall stair from the cloister, at the head of which is a round-headed doorway to the room above. This room was only some 7 ft. in height and had lancet windows, with wide internal splays, in the north wall, of which two remain.

The wall stair continued upwards, having on the south side an original trefoil window for light, and led to the second floor, which was the abbot's chapel. It is quite usual for the abbot's chapel to be over the outer-parlour, but no other case is known of there being a chamber between them. The chapel had windows in the north wall similar to those below; in the east wall were formerly three lancets and in the west wall are the inner splays and arch of a two-light window. In the south wall is a double piscina under two little pointed arches, carried in the middle by a small column. To

neither has anything of the sort been found at Worcester. From this evidence the conclusion is that in Benedictine houses there was no fire-place in the common-

house, but that in cold weather it was lighted on the floor or in a brazier, and the smoke was allowed to find its way out of the windows, as was usual in domestic

halls.

¹ It was covered with shingles in 1364: Abbot's accounts.

² *Archaeologia*, lxxxiii, 139-66.

the west is a cupboard and there was formerly a similar cupboard to the east.

Southward of the chapel is a subvault 53 ft. from north to south by $27\frac{1}{2}$ ft. wide, and the vaulting is carried by three round columns down the middle. Over this was the abbot's original hall, which was also entered by a round-headed doorway off the stair from the cloister. In addition there was a vice from the outer-parlour to the hall. The chief entrance was apparently by an outside stair on the west, and there was a service entrance at the south end.

On the west side of the subvault of the hall is a vaulted aisle, of four and a half bays, that had open arches on the west and seems to have been a porch of entry. There is a large doorway into the subvault and another at the north end into the outer-parlour. Over the porch two chambers were added in the 14th century. The southern has its original fire-place between two tall two-light transomed windows, of which the southern remains, but only the internal jambs of the northern are left. Northward of this was a second room, in which remain the internal window jambs, and there was another room above. When these rooms were added the west wall of the hall was removed and a stout timber partition erected in its stead. Southward of the subvault of the hall is a vaulted lobby entered from the cloister by a round-headed doorway. On the north side, in the east bay, is a doorway to the subvault and in the other bay are the remains of a segmental-headed opening to give light to the subvault. In the south wall are two doorways that apparently led to the buttery and pantry, which have disappeared. In the west end are two other doorways.

Westward from the lobby is a building 50 ft. from east to west by 23 ft. in width. It has a subvault of four bays with marble columns down the middle and was entered from the cloister lobby. In the north wall of the western bay is an original window of two lancet lights with a quatrefoil in the head. In the south-east angle is a doorway to a wall stair that led up to the abbot's old hall and, by a round-headed doorway, to the room over the subvault. This room was the abbot's great chamber, of which the walls are 14 ft. in height and were plastered and painted with 'mason' decoration. It was covered by a 14th-century roof that was destroyed in the fire of 1931. In the south wall is an original cupboard and towards the west end of the same wall is one jamb of a doorway that led to a small chapel. Of this chapel the east end remains, bedded in later work; it has a tall lancet window, and under it is half of a segmental-arched recess, behind the altar, in which is some 14th-century painting. In the north wall is part of an original cupboard, while farther to the west is a wide single-light window with an ogee cusped head, to enable the altar to be seen from the great chamber. The chapel is supported upon a basement, in the south wall of which are two lancet windows.

In the 15th century a new hall was built, on the ground level, to the south of the great chamber. It is 58 ft. from north to south by $30\frac{1}{2}$ ft. in width and the side walls are no less than 40 ft. in height. It is entered by a porch, formed within the basement of the chapel and through a doorway with a four-centred head enclosed by a square member. In the west wall are three large windows, of which the jambs and arches are original; the sills were some 4 ft. below the present ones, and show that the windows were originally of four

lights. At the extreme south end of this wall is part of an arched doorway leading outwards. In the south gable is a large window, of which the jambs and arch are also original. In the east wall is a doorway opposite, and similar to, that of the entrance, and high up is a quatrefoil squint for the occupant of the room behind to see good order was kept in the hall. The hall is covered by an open roof, which takes the place of an early 19th-century roof burnt in the fire.

At the same time as the hall was built a kitchen was added, between it and the monastic kitchen, for the use of the abbot's house. As this blocked the light of the aisle of the great kitchen a skewed recess was made through a pointed arch and a three-light window was formed in the angle between the two kitchens. In the north wall is a fire-place 10 ft. in width; in the west wall is a doorway from the hall, and in the south wall is the upper part of the window of four lights with tracery. In the east wall is a vice, entered from the abbot's kitchen, but the doorway is now blocked; above is a second doorway to a gallery across the end of the kitchen to a garderobe in the south-west angle, and a third doorway led to a room arranged over the skew window of the monastic kitchen. There is still another doorway onto the aisle roof of the great kitchen. The stair then goes up in a straight flight to the gutter of the frater.

The Infirmary seems to have occupied the usual position to the east of the claustral buildings; part of it was excavated in the middle of the last century, but the major part still remains to be traced.

The Guest House. In the 13th century a new guest house was built, to the south-west of the abbot's house, and of this the cellarage remains. This consists of eight barrel-vaulted chambers, side by side, measuring 132 ft. from east to west; the four middle chambers are 42 ft. from north to south and the rest are 28 ft. At the south end of each chamber is a lancet window, and there are angle fire-places in the first and second chamber from the east. In the north end of the fourth chamber is a doorway to a passage, 6 ft. wide and 74 ft. long, which leads towards the abbot's house. This is covered with a barrel vault and was lighted by little lancet windows in the east wall. At the north end the vault rises at a slope, but there is no evidence of how, or where, the passage terminated.

At 60 ft. from the west end of the guest-house is the east wall of another medieval building in which is a single-light cusped window of the 14th century.

At the Suppression the abbot's house was retained by Sir Anthony Browne as a dwelling-house and it still bears evidence of his alterations, the chief of which were a new west front to the abbot's great chamber, with an octagonal turret at the north-west angle, the dividing up of the old hall into bedrooms, and forming rooms between the new hall and the frater.

Sir Anthony, as guardian of Princess Elizabeth, intended her to reside at Battle and for this purpose began a great range of building 197 ft. long by 42 ft. wide, partly over the subvault of the guest house and extending to the 14th-century building to the west. This lodging was of two stories in height above the subvault, and had octagonal turrets at the western angles, which still remain, but the rest of the building has been destroyed and the site made into a terrace.

Another wing joined the main block with the later hall and it ranged in level with that at the end of the great chamber. This building stood until 1845, when it was converted by the Duke of Cleveland into the new library.¹

¹ Details of the reconstruction of this building are given in *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvii, 51-2.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

BATTLE. Of the 6½ hides constituting **MANORS** the Lowey granted to the Abbot of Battle before 1086 2½ hides only were held by him in demesne.¹ A description of the demesne lands belonging to the abbot and convent in the 12th century is given in the Chronicle of Battle Abbey. Among other lands noted are 48 acres in Petley and Uckham, 11 acres in Bredhurst, and 15 acres in Plessiez which now form part of Little Park Farm, north of the town.²

William I granted the abbot the right of free warren in the Lowey and all manors belonging to the abbey.³

The abbey property in Battle was assessed in 1291 at £48 7s. 2½d.,⁴ but by 1534 it had increased to £103 13s. 6½d.⁵ The manor continued in the possession of the abbot until the surrender of the abbey in May



BROWNE. *Sable three lions argent passant bendwise between double cotises argent.*



WEBSTER. *Azure a bend argent cotised or between two demi-lions ermine with a rose gules between two boars' heads sable on the bend.*

1538, when the abbot, John Hamond, conveyed it with the other lands of the house to the king.⁶ Three months later the bulk of the property was granted to Sir Anthony Browne,⁷ Master of the Horse, whose father-in-law, Sir John Gage, had been one of the Commissioners appointed to report on the state of the monastery.⁸

The grant included the house and site of the abbey, the church and churchyard, and the lordship and manor of Battle, to be held by a rent of 12d. yearly; and annual pensions of 100s. and 106s. 8d. were to be paid to the bailiff (Ambrose Comport) and the Dean of Battle respectively.⁹ On the death of Sir Anthony Browne in 1548¹⁰ the abbey estates passed to his son Anthony, created Viscount Montagu in 1554, who on his death in 1592¹¹ settled the property on his wife Magdalen, who held it till her death in 1608.¹² Her grandson, a third Anthony, succeeded, and, dying in 1629, was succeeded by his son Francis, a prominent royalist,¹³ whose estates were forfeited in 1643 for his recusancy, the revenues being at once assigned towards the annuity of the Elector Palatine.¹⁴ His son Francis, fourth Lord Montagu, succeeded in 1682, but died without issue in 1708,¹⁵ and the property passed to his brother Henry, who survived him for one year. Henry's son Anthony sold the abbey estates in 1721 to Sir Thomas Webster, bart.,¹⁶ who held his last court in 1750. He was suc-

ceeded by his son Sir Whistler Webster, who died without issue in 1779 leaving the property to his brother Godfrey,¹⁷ from whom it passed in direct succession to Sir Godfrey, sixth baronet. His brother Sir Augustus Webster sold the estate in 1857 to Lord Harry Vane, Duke of Cleveland. In 1902 it was again acquired by the Webster family, Miss Lucy Webster, daughter of Captain Sir Augustus F. Webster, bart., J.P., who died in 1923, being the present lady of the manor. Courts baron were occasionally held until about 1930.

There is no mention of **MARLEY** [Merle (xiii cent.)] in the Domesday Survey, but it may probably be identified with the 6 virgates of land which the Abbot of Battle then held in Netherfield, valued at 10s.¹⁸

It was called a manor as early as the reign of Edward I¹⁹ and continued to be held by the abbot until the Dissolution, and in 1535 'small farms in Marley and rents within the manor of Marley in the tenure of divers persons' are valued at £9 11s. 4d.²⁰ It was conveyed to the king as a manor,²¹ but the grant to Sir Anthony Browne in 1538 speaks of 'that messuage grange and farm called Marley farm' consisting of 6 acres.²² From this date there is no further record of the reputed manor of Marley, which is represented to-day by Marley Farm.

In the Domesday Survey 3 virgates in **BEECH** were included in the Lowey of the abbey,²³ and in the 12th-century survey of the Lowey this estate is entered as 3 wists, the holder of which must, during half the year, keep a horse fit for the riding of the abbot, and when required he should go with his horse wherever ordered, the convent paying for horseshoes and nails, but the service could be commuted for a rent of 10s.²⁴ This was said, in 1272, to have been converted by Abbot Richard (1215-35) into the serjeanty of carrying the abbot's cup and serving him therewith, or paying 10s. The holder at that time was Denis de Beche, whose son Reinbert succeeded him. From him it passed to his son Reynold and then to the latter's youngest son Elias, the custom of Borough English holding in the manor.²⁵ Elias died without issue and it passed successively to his elder brothers Henry, Gilbert, Roger, and Michael, and so to Michael's son Richard.²⁶ The property then consisted of about 180 acres; possibly a house in the town was attached to it, as in 1430 it is noted of the first house in Sandlake, then held by William Finch and formerly by Robert Humfrey, that the tenant ought to carry the abbot's cup to parliament.²⁷ The abbot's accounts for 1364-5 mention the manor of Beech as leased to Giles Shepherd (*Bercar*) for 46s. 8d.; in 1487 William Lunsford is called lord of the manor of Westbeche,²⁸ and in the following year he is termed lord of the manor of Estbeche.²⁹ The only other references to this estate as a manor appear to be in 1584, when John Ashburnham sold the manor of Beech to John Browne, and in 1594 when Browne sold it to Walter Evernden.³⁰ In spite of these sporadic appearances of the title, it is doubtful if Beech was really manorial.

¹ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 394a.

² *Op. cit.* (ed. Lower), 21-4.

³ Dugdale, *Mon.* iii, 243.

⁴ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 140.

⁵ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), i, 346-7.

⁶ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 27.

⁷ *Pat.* 30 Hen. VIII, pt. 3, m. 11.

⁸ *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 54.

⁹ *Pat.* 30 Hen. VIII, pt. 3, m. 11.

¹⁰ *Dict. Nat. Biog.* vii, 40.

¹¹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccxxxv, 110.

¹² *Ibid.* cclxvii, 98.

¹³ *G.E.C. Complete Peerage* (1st ed.), v,

340.

¹⁴ *Cal. of Com. for Compounding*, 197, 2543.

¹⁵ *G.E.C. op. cit.* 341.

¹⁶ *Feet of F. Suss.* Mich. 8 Geo. I.

¹⁷ *Add. MS.* 5679, fol. 69, from Court Rolls in the possession of the steward of the manor.

¹⁸ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 394a.

¹⁹ *Customs of Battle Abbey* (Camden Soc.), 4 et seq.

²⁰ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), i, 346.

²¹ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 27.

²² *Pat.* 30 Hen. VIII, pt. 3, m. 11; *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, vol. 13, ii, g. 249 (8).

²³ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 494.

²⁴ *Chron.* (ed. Lower), 22.

²⁵ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* vi, 178.

²⁶ *Ibid.* lxvi, 81-2.

²⁷ *Aug. Off. Misc. Bks.* 56, fol. 10v. Robert Humfrey occurs as a tenant in 1327: *Subsidies* (Suss. Rec. Soc.), 205.

²⁸ *Thorpe, Cat. of Battle Charters*, 126.

²⁹ *Ibid.* 127.

³⁰ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 30.

In 1086 *NETHERFIELD* [Nirefeld (xi cent.); Nadrefeld (xiii cent.); Naddersfeld (xiv cent.); Nethirfeld (xv cent.)], one of the manors granted to the Count of Eu which had been held before the Conquest by Goda, was in the hand of a certain Herolf¹ of whom nothing is known except that he also held one half-hide of land in the Abbot of Fécamp's manor of Rameslei. The overlordship followed the descent of the rape (q.v.).

There is no record of the manor till the end of the 12th century, by which time it had passed to the Hastings family, who held the neighbouring manor of Hollington, Robert de Hastings having demesne lands in Netherfield in 1199.² In 1271 Matthew de Hastings received a grant of free warren in his manor of Netherfield,³ which he held by the service of 2 knight's fees, a castle-guard rent of 21s. and suit at his lord's (hundred) court of Netherfield.⁴ He died in 1277 and was succeeded by his son William, who in 1279 successfully claimed the right of free warren enjoyed by his father.⁵ From him it passed to his son Thomas de Hastings, of whom half a fee here and in Eatonden was held for life by Robert de Echingham in 1320.⁶ Thomas settled the manor on his son, also Thomas,⁷ who with his brother Sir William renewed a grant or mortgage which their father had made to Henry Finch⁸ (son of Vincent Finch of Winchelsea); for in 1343 Thomas gave Henry a bond for £40 conditional on his enjoying quiet possession of the manor; next year Henry Finch agreed to allow Sir William to re-enter the manor twelve years after the original grant.⁹ Thomas de Hastings junior fell into such want that he was obliged to mortgage the manor of Eatonden to Henry Finch to provide himself with food and clothing,¹⁰ and nothing further is heard of the family. Henry granted Netherfield to his son Vincent in 1349,¹¹ although surviving himself until 1384.

Vincent's son, also Vincent,¹² was assessed in 1411 for £10 property in Netherfield,¹³ and from him it passed to his son William, who made his will in 1443, leaving it to his eldest son John.¹⁴ In 1470 the bailiff of the rape of Hastings was ordered to deliver the manor of Netherfield, then worth £8, to Denise and Parnel Finch, aunts of John, for a debt of £140 owed to them since 1457 by John Herbert *alias* Finch, holder of the manor.¹⁵ John died without issue in 1477,¹⁶ leaving as heir a brother Henry, who died in 1494, leaving Netherfield to his wife Alice for life, after which it passed to his third son, William,¹⁷ who was knighted at the Battle

of the Spurs in 1513.¹⁸ Lawrence his eldest son predeceased him, and Mary widow of Lawrence was granted a life interest in the estate.¹⁹ This passed, subject to the above provision, on the death of William in 1553, to his second son Thomas and formed part of the settlement on his marriage with Catherine, daughter and co-heir of Sir Thomas Moyle.²⁰ Sir Thomas Finch was drowned at sea in 1563²¹ and, Anthony his son and heir dying five years later under age,²² the estate passed on the death of Sir Thomas's widow in 1586–7 to the second son, Sir Moyle Finch, who in 1606 settled the manor on himself and his wife Elizabeth, with remainder to their son Theophilus.²³ Elizabeth was in 1623 created Countess of Maidstone 'in consideration of her husband's services to the King' and a bribe to the Lord Treasurer. In 1628 she received the additional title of Countess of Winchelsea.²⁴ She survived both her husband and eldest son, and on her death in 1634 her second son Thomas succeeded to the title and estates. On his death in 1639²⁵ it passed to his son Heneage, second earl. He was holding the property as late as 1651,²⁶ but had apparently mortgaged the estate to Anthony Stapley in 1650.²⁷ Anthony Stapley and Douglas his wife sold it in 1661 to Dr. Joseph Henshaw,²⁸ prebendary of Hurst, who was made Dean of Chichester at the Restoration and later Bishop of Peterborough.²⁹ He survived his only son and the property then passed to Thomas and Philip Henshaw, his nephew and grand-nephew respectively. The latter held it certainly from 1717 to 1725.³⁰ In 1734 it was bought by William Markwick,³¹ and in 1790 he, or possibly his son, was in possession. By 1805 it had been conveyed to John, Earl of Ashburnham,³² from whom it passed in direct succession to Lady Catherine Ashburnham, the present owner.

A park in Battle probably existed from the *PARKS* time of the grant of the Lowey to the Abbot by William I. The grant of a warren in the Lowey is at least attributed to him by the 12th-century chronicler.³³ In the description of the town given above³⁴ and in many other records the park is called the Plessiez or Plessethe. The grant of Battle to Sir Anthony Browne included two parks: one called the Great Park, having a circuit of 2½ miles containing 300 acres, and the second called the Little Park, having a circuit of 1½ miles containing 100 acres.³⁵ In 1574 by order of the Privy Council an inquiry was made concerning 'such as should be named' who were suspected of poaching in Lord Montagu's Park of Battle.³⁶ These parks appear



FINCH. *Argent a chevron between three griffons passant sable.*



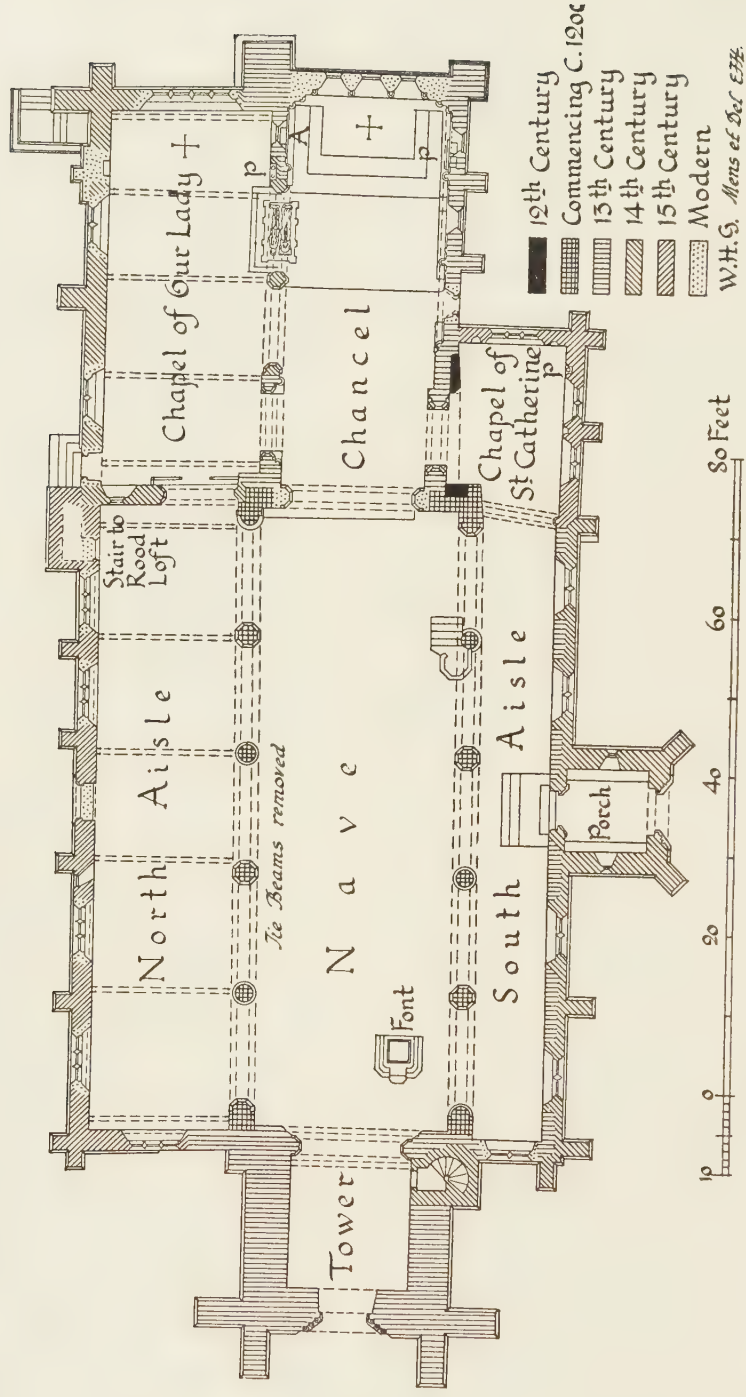
ASHBURNHAM. *Gules a fesse between six molets argent.*

¹ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 399a.
² Add. MS. 5680, fol. 317.
³ *Cal. Chart. R.* 1257–1300, p. 169.
⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. 5 Edw. I, no. 7.
⁵ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 756.
⁶ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 405.
⁷ Feet. of F. Suss. Mich. 3 Edw. IV; *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 1858.
⁸ For the origin of the family of Finch see *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxx, 19–22.
⁹ Add. Ch. 20121, 20116, and 20122.
¹⁰ Ibid. 20116.
¹¹ Ibid. 20117.
¹² Collins, *Peerage*, iii, 374.
¹³ Lay Subs. R. 189, no. 63; 225, no. 40.
¹⁴ *Arch. Cant.* xiii, 322. William Finch's widow Agnes later married Babilon

Grauntford of Rye and claimed dower in Netherfield in 1448: Add. MS. 39376, fols. 56, 98.
¹⁵ Close, 10 Edw. IV, m. 4.
¹⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. 17 Edw. IV, no. 32.
¹⁷ The eldest son Henry was living in 1502–3, in the wardship of Sir John Donn, but still a minor: De Banco R. Mich. 18 Hen. VII, m. 107.
¹⁸ *Arch. Cant.* xiii, 326.
¹⁹ Chan. Inq. p.m. 7 Edw. VI, no. 72.
²⁰ Exch. Inq. p.m. 7 Edw. VI, file 1099, no. 9.
²¹ Collins, *Peerage*, iii, 379.
²² Add. MS. 5680, fol. 317.
²³ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccclix, 173.
²⁴ Collins, *Peerage*, iii, 382.

²⁵ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxcxi, 25.
²⁶ Recov. R. Suss. Trin. 1651, rot. 75.
²⁷ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xx, 316.
²⁸ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 13 Chas. II.
²⁹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xix, 107.
³⁰ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 317.
³¹ Recov. R. Suss. East. 7 Geo. II, rot. 219; *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xx, 316.
³² Recov. R. Suss. East. 1813, rot. 17, and Court Rolls in the possession of the steward of the manor.
³³ *Chron. of Battle Abbey* (ed. Lower), 37.
³⁴ Ibid. 23.
³⁵ Pat. 30 Hen. VIII, pt. 3, m. 11.
³⁶ *Acts of P.C.* 1571–5, 309.

PARISH CHURCH of ST. MARY *the* VIRGIN BATTLE



to have been disparked before the middle of the 17th century, as in a lease made by Lord Montagu about that date mention is made of 'the great park of Battle Abbey lately disparked'.¹

The account of Battle in the Domesday *MILLS* Survey included two unrented mills,² and in the description of the town given in the Abbey Chronicle in the 12th century one of these is said to be 'under Loxbeeche' and the other 'lower down in the valley'.³ The grant of the Abbey to Sir Anthony Browne in 1538 includes one only, described as the Parke Mylne,⁴ presumably the one ordered to be suppressed in 1627 for unauthorized powder-making.⁵ Two water-mills were included in the sale of the abbey property to the Webster family in 1721.⁶

The church of *ST. MARY* consists of a *CHURCH* chancel, north chapel, south chapel, nave, north aisle, south aisle, south porch, and west tower. It is built of stone, the chancel, except where rebuilt, and the north aisle of uncoursed masonry and the south chapel, the south aisle, the porch and the tower of ironstone ashlar. The roofs are tiled.

A church was built here about 1115, but the only portion of the existing building which can be assigned definitely to that period is a tall round arch and its supports at the south-west of the chancel. This arch was probably on the south side of the central crossing of a transeptal church and opened into a south transept. About 1200 the rebuilding of the church on a more extensive scale was begun. The nave, with its north and south arcades, and the south aisle are of this period, and building was continued until well on into the 13th century, when the lower stages of the tower were built. About 1230 the chancel was rebuilt, the crossing being then incorporated within it, and the transepts themselves either remodelled or rebuilt as north and south chapels. In the 14th century the north chapel was rebuilt on a large scale, two additional arches being then opened out in the north wall of the chancel. The upper stage of the tower and the turret stairway were also built at this period and windows were inserted in the south aisle. The south porch was added towards the end of the century. In the 15th century the south chapel was rebuilt from the level of the plinth and the north aisle was widened. The church was thoroughly restored in 1869, when the east wall of the chancel and the chancel arch with the gable above it were rebuilt.

The chancel was remodelled in the 13th century had three tall lancet windows on the north and three on the south, each constructed within an arch of a wall arcade. On the north side the middle and western arches with their lancets were destroyed when the 14th-century arcade was built, but on the south all three are preserved. The wall arcades have attached circular shafts with moulded capitals and bases, and arches with keel edge moulding. The arches spring from a level 10 ft. 6 in. above the floor and rise to within a few inches of the wall plate of the roof. The lancets have a single chamfer and a rebate on the outside, and a deep splay within. There are string-courses below the sills both outside and inside, that on the inside having a vertical branch rising out of it on either side of the lancets and returning against the capital of the shaft of the wall arcade. In the east wall is a window of three lancets which in 1869 replaced a large window with perpendicular tracery.

The 13th-century design of the north wall is still clearly indicated on the wall itself. The eastern arch of the wall arcade with its lancet, now looking into the north chapel, is intact, and the adjacent portion of the second arch of the arcade is still to be seen in the wall above. Beyond the arcade was a narrow blind arch and the existing western arch in the wall. These last spring from a lower level than the arches of the wall arcade but are of the same period. The arch is of three orders on the side towards the chancel. The two inner orders, which are returned on the north side, are chamfered and spring from octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases. The outer order has an edge roll and springs from a separate circular shaft: the shaft of the east respond also supports the blind arch, a portion of which is still to be seen in the wall above. When the north chapel was enlarged the blind arch and two arches of the wall arcade with their lancets were replaced by two pointed arches, each of two chamfered orders springing from an octagonal pillar, with a circular shaft on the chancel side, and semi-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases. Below the lancet at the east end of the wall is a rectangular aumbry. In the south wall of the chancel below the easternmost lancet is a piscina with a trefoiled head and beside it a square recess for the cruets: the whole under a framework of three conjoined trefoils: the sills are modern. The shafts of the wall arcade rise from a seat 1 ft. 5 in. above the floor and in the second bay of the arcade on the south this seat is broken down in two offsets, as for sedilia. Below the third lancet is a modern doorway. The western portion of the south wall is of early-12th-century date and contains a plain round arch 11 ft. 5 in. wide and springing from chamfered imposts 11 ft. 5 in. above the floor. On the west side the impost is carried along the wall southward about a foot beyond the arch. Within this arch and overlapping it on the chancel side a lower arch was built in the 13th century like that opposite it in the north wall except that the outer order is omitted. On this side of the chancel the space between the arch and the wall arcade, though it appears to have been of the same width as on the north, is treated as a plain panel with head formed by mouldings carried along the wall in line with the capitals of the wall arcade. The chancel arch was rebuilt and raised in 1869 and is principally of modern stonework. It is pointed and of two chamfered orders with semi-octagonal responds. The capitals are carved with palm-leaf ornament. The roof of the chancel is modern.

All the windows in the north chapel have been restored with modern stonework. There is a window of four trefoiled lights in the east wall and two windows, each of two lights, in the north wall. At the west end of the north wall is a modern doorway. In the west wall is a 14th-century pointed arch to the north aisle. It is of two chamfered orders with semi-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases. North of the arch, and now looking into the aisle, is a single trefoiled light of the same period. At the east end of the south wall there is a double piscina with a cinquefoiled head: the outer half of the head has been renewed. The bowls are 14th-century work: they are circular, each being of 10 in. diameter and having a slightly raised portion at the bottom. The roof of the chapel is modern.

The south chapel, dedicated in honour of St.

¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvii, 33.

² *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 395a.

³ *Op. cit.* 22. There was a third, on

the southern border of the Lowey, at Piping: *ibid.*

⁴ *Pat.* 30 Hen. VIII, pt. 3, m. 11.

⁵ *Cal. S. P. Dom.* 1627-8, p. 493.

⁶ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 8 Geo. I.

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Catherine, has in the east wall a three-light window with Perpendicular tracery in a pointed head and in the south wall two windows of the same character but each of two lights, all much restored. The east window within is flanked on either side by a tall niche, the canopy and pedestal of which have been cut away flush with the wall. In the miniature vaulting of that on the south is a St. Catherine's wheel. In the south wall is a mutilated trefoiled piscina. At the west of the chapel is a half arch of two chamfered orders which takes the form of a flying buttress. It springs from a chamfered respond with modern capital and base. The arch is probably of earlier date than the existing chapel.

The nave has on either side an arcade of five pointed arches of two chamfered orders. The pillars and responds are alternately round and octagonal and have moulded capitals and bases: the bases have been largely repaired or renewed. The capitals of the last pillar on both sides and of the west respond on the south have no other ornament than their mouldings. All the other capitals have heavy leaf ornament. Forms of palm-leaf are used in the north arcade and in the east respond of the south arcade. The capitals of the first two pillars on the south have curled leaf ornament, and the capital of the third pillar on the south a band of large trefoils. The ornament of the west respond on the north is a derivative from a Corinthian capital. Above the arcades on either side is a clerestory of four lancet windows, the windows being placed over the pillars. The tower arch is pointed and of three chamfered orders, the inner springing from tall semi-octagonal responds, of which the capitals are moulded similarly to those of the nave, without leaf ornament, but have no astragals at the neck. The nave has an open trussed roof, the old trusses of which were replaced in 1869 by iron tie-rods: the wall-plates are medieval.

At the east end of the north aisle, in the north wall, is a blocked pointed doorway to the rood loft, the stairway to which projects beyond the face of the wall outside. In the north wall are four windows, each of three cinquefoiled lights with perpendicular tracery in a pointed head, and there is a similar window in the west wall. Those in the north wall are of modern stonework: that in the west wall retains some of the 15th-century tracery. In the middle of the wall on the north is a blocked pointed doorway with continuous mouldings and a label. High in the wall to the west of this doorway is a single round-headed light, which pierces obliquely through the wall, the internal jambs looking towards the south-east.

The windows and doorway in the south aisle are similarly disposed to those in the north aisle. The windows are each of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoiled tracery in a pointed head. Four of these are of 14th-century date, much restored, and the fifth, that at the west end of the south wall, is modern. The mouldings of the pointed doorway are covered with cement. The south porch, though rising to the same height as the aisle, is of one story only. On either side there is a small square-headed window which originally had a central iron stanchion. The outer doorway has a pointed head of three moulded orders and a label with returned stops. The first and third orders are continuous in the jamb, but the middle order rises from the capital of a small shaft on either side. The capitals and bases of the shafts are modern. The porch has a modern

pyramidal roof. When in the 14th century larger windows were inserted in the south aisle the walls of the aisle were refaced externally and surmounted by an embattled parapet. It is clear that at that time there was a south chapel, for the 14th-century plinth is continued without break round the walls of the chapel and the 15th-century work of the chapel begins from this level. The roofs of the aisles are modern.

The tower is of three stages surmounted by an embattled parapet and a timber pyramidal roof. It is supported at the west angles by buttresses of deep projection which rise through two stages only. At the south-east is a turret stairway which rises slightly above the parapet of the tower. The west doorway, of well-preserved 13th-century work, has a pointed head of three orders, the inner a keel moulding and each of the others a hollow moulding. The orders rise from detached jamb shafts with moulded capitals and bases. Above the doorway is a large four-light window with perpendicular tracery, restored. On the west, north, and south sides of the second stage there is a small rectangular light and on each side of the bell-chamber a window of two trefoiled lights in a square head.

The font has a square bowl of Sussex marble with shallow arcades of round arches. The underside is moulded for a large central drum surrounded by four shafts. The present shafts and base on which it stands are modern, but the bowl is of 12th-century date. In the north aisle there is a 17th-century chest. Some fragments of 15th-century painted glass, including many figures and a bishop in Mass vestments, are incorporated in the windows of the north aisle. In the course of the removal of whitewash in 1845 mural paintings in distemper were discovered on the wall of the clerestory on the north side of the nave and over the chancel arch. Before they were covered again careful drawings of them were made.¹ The subjects depicted incidents in our Lord's Passion, and allegorical scenes. Some of them are still to be seen faintly outlined beneath the whitewash.

Beneath the easternmost arch on the north side of the chancel is a table tomb of alabaster with recumbent effigies of Sir Anthony Browne, died 1548, and Alice his wife, died 1540. The knight is in armour of the period, mantle and insignia of the Order of the Garter: he wears a sword and a dagger: his head rests on a helm, from which the crest is missing: his feet, in sabatons, rest on a stag with a ducal coronet: his hands, which are broken off, were raised in attitude of prayer. The lady is on the knight's right: she is in a long gown and mantle: the gown is cut low in front and shows a plaited partlet with finely worked edging: she wears a 'pedimental' head-dress and a necklace: over her head is a canopy and at her feet lies a dog: her hands are also broken off. Each side of the tomb is decorated with three sculptured panels with round heads divided by shafts with capitals and bases: the upper part of each panel has a shell-like ornament with a cherub's head and the lower part contains a shield.² There is also a panel at each end similarly treated. The pedestal is finely carved with gryphons and other conventional ornament. On the rim of the tomb is an inscription, in which the date of Sir Anthony's death is left blank, showing that it was erected in his lifetime.

On the floor of the chancel are three brasses.³ I. To John Lowe, died 1426, with effigy and long inscription

¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xlii, 223-7.

² For the blazoning of these shields, now very indistinct, see *ibid.* lxxviii, 226-8.

³ *Ibid.* lxxvi, 73-82.



BATTLE CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST



BATTLE CHURCH: THE TOMB OF SIR ANTHONY BROWNE

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of the Workhouse Field. The income is applied in subscriptions to local hospitals and nursing associations and in weekly grants to deserving parishioners.

Zion Baptist Chapel, comprised in an indenture of 3 April 1821, for the Particular Baptists, consists of the chapel and site managed by a body of trustees who are appointed by the major part of the male members of the congregation.

The Unitarian Chapel, created by deed of 3 June 1828, was sold under a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 1 October 1897, and the proceeds paid to the British and Foreign Unitarian Association.

The Congregational Chapel and Sunday School, created by indenture of 28 July 1881, is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 7 September 1923 which directs that the chapel be administered by the Sussex Congregational Union [Incorporated] as the trustees of the charity.

The following charities are administered in conformity with a scheme of the Charity Commissioners of 4 July 1912 under the title of Dean Crake's Gift:

(1) The Chapel of the Ascension which was erected at the cost of the Very Reverend Edward Neville Crake, dean and vicar of Battle, upon a piece of land on the road leading from Battle to Hastings, given in 1875 by Sir Archibald Lamb, bart.

(2) Dean Crake's Gift, founded by will proved in London on 17 August 1909 and consisting of Stock held by the Official Trustees and producing in dividends £15 per annum. The income is applied by the dean and churchwardens to the repair of the chapel.

The Earl of Ashburnham, by his will proved in London on 13 February 1913, gave a sum which when invested in 2½ per cent. Consolidated Stock would produce £150 per annum, to be paid to the person acting as priest serving the Roman Catholic mission at Battle. The trustees are the Roman Catholic Bishop of Southwark, the Vicar-General of Southwark, and the priest serving the mission, in whose names the stock is vested.

Benjamin Johnston's Charity. Mary Johnston, by her will proved in London on 28 December 1928, gave to the trustees of the Battle Charities the sum of £200 to be called the Benjamin Johnston Charity, the income to be applied for the benefit of the poor; and Frances Johnston, by her will proved in London 15 November 1929, gave a similar sum for the same purpose. The legacies were invested in £398 9s. 5 per cent. Conversion Stock 1944-64 in the name of the Official Trustees, which produces in dividends £19 18s. 4d. per annum.

John Elliott Winton, by his will proved at Lewes on 13 February 1932, bequeathed a legacy of £500 to the trustees of the Battle Charities. The endowment consists of £737 18s. 8d. India 3 per cent. Stock held by the Official Trustees, producing in dividends £22 2s. 8d. per annum.

Netherfield Sabbath School and Place of Religious Worship, created by indenture dated 10 January 1838, has now been sold under a scheme of the Charity Commissioners of 23 June 1885 and the proceeds applied towards the cost of school buildings in connexion with Zion Particular Baptist chapel at Battle.

WHATLINGTON

Whatlingetone (xi cent.); Wetlingthona (xv cent.)

Whatlington is a small parish two miles north of Battle containing 1,234 acres of land, for the most part flat, no point in the parish being more than 200 ft. above the ordnance datum. The main road from London to Hastings enters the parish from the north-east and throwing off a branch to Rye continues south to the Royal Oak Inn, where another branch passes to Battle. The River Brede rising in Ashburnham wood flows in a north-easterly direction towards the village where, after receiving a rivulet from Mountfield, it passes out of the parish east to Sedlescombe. The woodlands consist for the most part of Barnes Wood and Little Cowland Wood in the north of the parish. The soil is loamy and subsoil sandy.

Lea Bank is a timber-framed cottage on a brick base, with thatched roof. The date 1641 appears on the oak lintel of the fire-place in the main living-room, but portions of the structure appear to be of the 16th century. There is a large brick chimney-stack of 17th-century date. The house has been recently restored and some old timbers from a destroyed barn have been incorporated. All the windows and external doors and doorways are modern, but there are two old doors inside, one on the ground floor and the other upstairs. Most of the rooms have old joists in the ceiling, and one of the bedrooms has an open fire-place with wooden lintel similar to that in the main living-room.

WHATLINGTON, which before the Conquest had belonged to Earl Harold, formed part of the large estates granted by the Earl of Eu to Reinbert, founder of the house of Echingham.¹

The overlordship followed the descent of the rape (q.v.). The lands of Reinbert the sheriff passed with the manor of Etchingham (q.v.) to Simon de Echingham, who gave to Battle Abbey, at the beginning of the 13th century, a rent of 3½ marks, reserving to himself the gift of the chapel of Whatlington.²

His son William with his wife Margery demised to the Abbey all their right in the fee of Whatlington.³ He died in 1252,⁴ and this grant was confirmed before 1268 by Simon his brother and heir, whose wife Pauline also promised to forgo her claim to dowry on the death of her husband.⁵ William, grandson of Simon, repeated the confirmation in 1326,⁶ and the abbot continued to hold it in frank almain.⁷ In 1330 the Abbot of Battle successfully sued Simon, brother of William, as the latter refused to acquit him of the 1000. relief claimed by John of Brittany on the death of William and Robert de Echingham for the free tenement which the abbot had



ECHINGHAM. *Azure fretty argent.*

¹ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 398b and 380.

² Spencer Hall, *Echyngam of Etchingham*, 2-4.

³ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 428.

⁴ Spencer Hall, op. cit. 5.

⁵ *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 216.

⁶ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 429.

⁷ *Cal. Ing. Misc.* ii, no. 405; *Cal. Ing. p.m.* viii, p. 232.

held of them in Whatlington and also of 12s. castle-guard rent. The abbot then stated that he held in Whatlington 24 messuages, 300 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, and 100 acres of pasture.¹ At the Dissolution the possessions of Battle Abbey were granted to Sir Anthony Browne, and Whatlington was henceforth held of him and his successors as of the manor of Battle (q.v.).

The first important sub-tenant of Whatlington was Thomas, son of William de Haremere, to whom Simon de Echingham, about the end of the 12th century, gave all the land which Warin son of Gilbert de Dumare and Bartholomew Cumin held of him in Whatlington, which was subsequently held as half a knight's fee.² For this land Thomas was to pay 3½ marks rent, which, as we have seen, Simon subsequently granted to Battle Abbey. When William de Echingham made over the fee to the abbey, in about 1250, it was held of him by Joce, son of Thomas de Haremere, Renger de Watlington, and Thomas Skiret.³ Members of the families of Haremere and Whatlington are constantly found associated in charters connected with this district, and Thomas de Haremere is mentioned as uncle of William, son of Joce de Whatlington.⁴ The fee seems to have passed to Richard de Whatlington, who died in 1339, leaving a son Richard, under age, in ward to the abbot.⁵ At some uncertain date it came to Valentine Mory, from whom it had already passed to John Vistynden by 1430.⁶ In 1466 Vincent Finch did homage in the court of Battle for the manor of Whatlington, late of John Fistinden (*sic*).⁷

From Vincent Finch,⁸ who apparently belonged to one of the branches of that family which afterwards removed to Grovehurst in Kent, it passed through successive generations to John Finch, who died in 1549 seised of the manor, then worth £6, leaving a son Henry, then aged eighteen.⁹ By his will he assigned the profits of Whatlington for the education of his son until he should be twenty-two, when he should succeed to the estate, on condition that he allowed his brothers Clement and Thomas to enjoy their legacies unmolested, failing which the manor was to pass to them.¹⁰ Meanwhile Whatlington was in the king's hands.¹¹ Henry died in 1554, the year in which he came of age, leaving as heir his brother Clement, who died in 1597.¹² His son John forfeited two-thirds of his estates as a recusant in 1626, when they were at once granted by the king to William Adams for 21 years at a rent of £66 13s. 4d.¹³ John died in 1637,¹⁴ and his son Clement seems to have taken possession,¹⁵ but shortly after his death in 1650 his son John found it necessary to obtain a lease of his estates on the ground that his father had left him much in debt and that he had to make provision for five brothers and sisters. In the following year, on a further petition of Mary, widow of Clement, John Finch received a discharge of sequestration.¹⁶ After 1656, when John Finch was still holding it,¹⁷ the history is somewhat obscure, but

it seems to have been for some time in the hands of the Pelham family, who were overlords and holders of the Rape.¹⁸ By 1775 it had come into the possession of Sir Whistler Webster, bart.,¹⁹ son of Sir Thomas Webster, both of whom were lords of the manor of Battle. Sir Whistler died in 1779, and was succeeded by his brother Godfrey, but before 1835 Whatlington had been acquired by the Earls of Ashburnham, in whose family it remains.²⁰

The church of *ST. MARY MAG-CHURCH DALENE* consists of chancel, north vestry, nave, north-west tower with tiled spire. The nave and chancel, which are structurally undivided, are of the 13th century and the vestry and tower are modern. A former west tower was destroyed in 1862. The roofs are tiled. The east window is of three trefoiled lights, c. 1275. There are two clamped buttresses at the east end and the east gable retains its old coping. There is a lancet on the north and south of the chancel and a low-side window in the usual position on the south. The nave has one original and one modern lancet in the north wall. The west wall has been partly reconstructed, but it retains two clamped angle buttresses and a plain doorway of two orders. The south wall has two original buttresses and one original lancet; there is also a modern lancet, while the south-east and south-west windows are single lights under a square head of late-15th-century date. The chancel roof is modern, but the nave has an ancient roof with modern boarding. The north doorway of the nave is a plain arched opening with wide chamfer and is mainly modern. The base of the tower serves as a porch.

There is a plain square recess for the piscina and a large arched recess which served as the sedilia on the south side of the chancel. The font has a plain square bowl with chamfered angles, octagonal shaft, and square base; it is contemporary with the fabric. There is a brass inscription of 1627.

The tower contains three bells, the first and second with no inscription, and the third originally cast in 1636 and recast by Warner in 1862.²¹

The plate consists of a silver communion cup, 1624, a silver paten of the latter half of the 15th century, and a silver paten of 1880.²²

The registers begin in 1558.

There is no mention of a church in *ADVOWSON* Whatlington in Domesday Book, but in the grant of land in Whatlington to William de Haremere at the end of the 12th century the chapel was retained by Simon de Echingham.²³ It seems, however, to have been attached to the Haremere half-fee, as in 1268 Thomas Skyret (see above) remitted the advowson to the Abbey of Battle,²⁴ and it was confirmed to them by William de Echingham about 1290.²⁵ In 1291 it was worth £4 13s. 4d.,²⁶ and in 1535 the rectory was valued at £7 6s. 6d.²⁷ Although the advowson is not

¹ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 428.

² Ibid.

³ *Cal. Pat.* 1317-21, p. 571.

⁴ Thorpe, *Battle Abbey Chs.* 38.

⁵ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 428.

⁶ Aug. Off. Misc. Bks. 56, fol. 35. Stephen Mory was one of the tenants in Whatlington from whom Laurence Haremere received rents in 1395: *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxiii, no. 2638.

⁷ Aug. Off. Misc. Bks. 56, fol. 35v.

⁸ Possibly this is Vincent, brother of John and Henry Finch of Netherfield, &c. (*Arch. Cant.* xiii, 322), who may have

removed to Kent and founded this branch.

⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), xci, 3.

¹⁰ *Arch. Cant.* xiii, 331.

¹¹ *Cal. Pat. Edw. VI*, iv, 54.

¹² Add. MS. 5680, fol. 428; *P.C.C.* 47, Cobham.

¹³ *Pat. 9 Chas. I*, pt. 9, m. 2.

¹⁴ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccclxxvii, 174.

¹⁵ Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 12 Chas. I.

¹⁶ *Cal. of Com. for Compounding*, 2676, 2677, 2845.

¹⁷ *Recov. R. Mich.* 1656, ro. 213.

¹⁸ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 165; Feet of F. *Suss. Hil.* 8 Geo. III.

¹⁹ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 165.

²⁰ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 527; Lower, *Sussex*, ii, 244.

²¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 229.

²² Ibid. lv, 218-19.

²³ Add. MS. 6348, fol. 312.

²⁴ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* vii, no. 747.

²⁵ Spencer Hall, *Echyngham of Etchingham*, p. 6.

²⁶ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 137b.

²⁷ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), i, 343.

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mentioned in the grant of the monastery to Sir Anthony Browne in 1538, it and the rectory were granted to him next year.¹ It remained in the family of the Viscounts Montagu until 1685² or later, but by 1734 the patronage had come into the hands of Lionel, Duke of Dorset,³ and remained in that family, Lord Sackville and the Lord Chancellor being the present alternate patrons of the joint benefices of Whatlington and Sedlescombe.

In 1696 a dispute arose between John Doddridge, rector of Whatlington, and his parishioners with regard

to tithes, the rector demanding that they should be paid in kind instead of by a composition payment of 2*s.* in the pound which had been the previous custom.⁴ The result of the suit does not appear.

Edward Theobald's Charity. In the *CHARITIES* returns made to Parliament in 1786 it is stated that in 1738 Edward Theobald left £20 for teaching poor children of the parish, then vested in the minister and parish officers. This charity now appears to be lost.

¹ Pat. 31 Hen. VIII, pt. 4, m. 43.

² Recov. R. Hil. 1 & 2 Jas. II, ro. 33.

³ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

⁴ Exch. Dep. 9 Wm. III, Suss. Mich. no. 2.

THE HUNDRED OF BEXHILL

CONTAINING THE PARISH OF

BEXHILL

THE hundred of Bexhill, consisting in 1086 of Bexhill and Bollington,¹ included the greater part of the present parish of Bexhill. The Liberty of the Sluice, though locally situated in Bexhill, was within the liberty of Hastings. In 1339 an attempt was made to acquit the Cinque Ports of payment of their proportion of taxation at the expense of the bishop's tenants, and on appeal it was decided that of the 112*s.* 1½*d.* for which the whole hundred was assessed the men of Bexhill should pay their customary 69*s.* 9½*d.*, while the Cinque Ports should be responsible for the remaining 42*s.* 3*d.* unless they could produce a charter showing their discharge from such taxation.²

By the 13th century Bexhill had been divided into the east, middle, and west 'boroughs' or tithings.³

Pebsham at one time was considered manorially a borough of Robertsbridge,⁴ but, if ever extra-hundredal, was probably annexed to the hundred after the dissolution of the Abbey. Barnhorne was one of the tithings of the hundred in 1296 and 1327.⁵ Part of it, however, was, and still is, attached to Battle Hundred.⁶ The hundred formed part of the original endowment of the see of Chichester and except for some 80 years—from about 1069 till 1148—when it was in the hands of the Count of Eu⁷ it was held by the bishops⁸ until 1559. By the Act passed in that year, permitting the queen to take the lands of vacant bishoprics,⁹ it passed to the Crown and shortly afterwards was granted to Thomas Lord Buckhurst in whose family it descended, as the manor of Bexhill (q.v.), and at present belongs to Lord de la Warr.

¹ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 397.

² *Cal. Close*, 1339-41, p. 126.

³ Assize R. 909, m. 26 d.; Register of Bp. of Chichester, quoted *Place-Names of Suss.* ii, 489. Cf. Muster Roll for 1539: *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (1), 298.

⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* viii, 167.

⁵ *Suss. Rec. Soc.*, Subsidies, x, 17, 205.

⁶ *Place-Names of Suss.* ii, 489; *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (1), 298.

⁷ Dugdale, *Mon.* vi, 1168.

⁸ Assize R. 921, m. 5; *ibid.* 923, m. 5.

⁹ *Statutes at Large*, vi, 149.

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BEXHILL

Bexlia (viii cent.); Bexelei (xi cent.); Bexle, Beksela, Beause (xiii cent.); Buxle (xiv and xv cents.).

The parish of Bexhill extends along the coast from Bulverhithe to Pevensey, its most northern point being about 3 miles from the coast. It has an area of 8,015 acres, including Little Common and Sidley, of which about 11 acres are covered by water. In the 19th century Bexhill consisted merely of a few timber-framed houses and red-tiled cottages with church, rectory, and manor, with a population of 2,000, while the site of Bexhill-on-Sea, now covered with miles of streets and shops with a population of over 21,000, consisted of ploughed fields. A winding lane about two-thirds of a mile in length leads from the sea-front to the picturesque Old Village where is the Manor-House, formerly the property of the Bishops of Chichester. The house¹ is built of stone mostly covered with plaster or cement and is of irregular plan. The oldest part of the plan is L-shaped, the two arms running north and west. At their junction is a small wing, gabled on its east and west faces, probably of Elizabethan date. This has been lengthened to the south in modern times and a western wing built parallel with it. The angle of the original L-plan, to the north-west, has been filled in with a one-storied addition and there are other comparatively modern additions to the north, containing the kitchen and offices, and to the east. Many alterations have been made to the original structure, including the insertion of a central chimney-stack, upper floors, new windows and doorways, &c. The hall of the original house probably occupied the north wing and the solar the south.

The walls are fairly thick, the south wall being 3 ft. 3 in. The entrance doorway in this wall is of the early 16th century and has a depressed arch. A small and ancient rectangular window remains in the west wall of the south wing; another in the south wall is now blocked and covered by the modern south-west wing. In the east wall of the old north wing is a mid-14th-century window of one light with a trefoiled ogee head, high up above the main staircase-window, and therefore possibly re-set. The wall itself is built of cobble-stones, mostly plastered, and has a buttress and ashlar angle-dressings at the north end. There are also old angle-dressings to be seen on the plastered face of the south-east wing, forming a straight joint between the Elizabethan wing and its southern extension. The original south wing has a central chimney-stack with wide fire-places: it has a cross-shaped shaft above the roof coated with cement. The two rooms on the ground floor in the wing have open-timbered ceilings with stop-chamfered main beams of c. 1600, and the eastern room has a stone doorway (14th century or earlier) in the north wall: it has chamfered jambs and a pointed head and opened into the former hall or north wing. In the east wall, now an internal wall, of the same room is a blocked window with an elliptical head and wide splayed reveals: this is probably a 15th- or 16th-century feature as, next west of it, is a 6 ft. passage which also has a blocked 17th-century window in its east wall, now internal, covered by the modern east wing. The upper story of the south wing has open-timbered ceilings similar to those below. The old north wing appears to

have no ancient features inside. The south-east Elizabethan wing has open-timbered ceilings and contemporary panelling on both floors.

The old town at Bexhill has a few moderately ancient-looking houses with weather-boarded fronts in the High Street and Church Street; a plastered house at the corner of the two streets has a 17th-century chimney of cross plan: some of the other buildings may be as old but have no distinctive features. Many of them are fitted with modern shop-fronts.

The main road from Lewes entering the parish from the north-west passes through Sidley to Bexhill. The stream known as Combe Haven forms the north-eastern boundary of the parish. The soil varies in different parts of the parish but for the most part it is loam and sand with a subsoil of clay in places; and the highest points in the parish are the centre of the old village and Mayo's Farm, where a height of 157 ft. is reached. Ironworks were established in the parish as early as the 16th century. In 1574 Lord Dacre was holding one forge and one furnace in Buckholt in the tenancy of Bartholomew Jefferay. He directs by his will, dated 8 December 1575, that Thomas Aulfrey shall 'have the use & governance of his forge & furnace & woodes' for five years for the payment of his debts.² This forge was still worked in 1653.³

From 1884 the parish was governed by a Local Board, but under the provisions of the Local Government Act of 1894 this was superseded by an Urban District Council till 1902, when it was incorporated as a municipal borough. It is divided into five wards, and the corporation consists of a mayor, six aldermen, and eighteen councillors.

Little Common, a part of the parish and borough lying two miles west, was formed into an ecclesiastical parish in 1857.

The Liberty of the Sluice, a hamlet of Bexhill and a member of the Cinque Port of Hastings, was adjacent to the old town of Northeye, which was situated two or three miles east-north-east of Pevensey Castle.⁴

Cooden lies along the coast west of Bexhill, with Barnhorne inland to the north of it, and Gotham still farther north. On the east side of old Bexhill is Glyne Farm, and Pebsham is slightly to the north-east of it.

Buckholt Farm, about 2 miles north of the town, is a late-16th-century house which was probably remodelled in 1670—the date on the entrance. The original plan seems to have been of a modified H shape with the main block facing east and west. The south wing, now the principal block, is built of brick with stone mullioned windows having moulded drip-stones. In the middle is a two-storied porch-wing with a square-headed stone doorway with a moulded drip-stone. The inner doorway has a Tudor arch and a twelve-panelled door with moulded and nail-studded framing; the door is original, but on the head is carved the date 1670. The front wall has a stone plinth and the end walls are gabled and have stone copings and moulded kneelers. The kitchen wing, formerly the main block, was widened on the east side in the 19th century for a staircase and has an original upper window like the others, of four lights, in the west wall. There is also one old

¹ In 1447 Adam Bishop of Chichester, received permission to fortify his manor-house at Bexhill with brick and stone:

Cal. Chart. R. 1427–1516, p. 94.

² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* iii, 241.

³ *Ibid.* xviii, 16; Straker, *Wealden Iron*,

356–7.

⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xix, 5.

stone window re-set in the modern east wall. Above the junction of this block with the south wing is an ancient brick chimney-stack of cross-shaped plan. The kitchen has a fire-place 9 ft. wide with an oak lintel and a chamfered ceiling-beam with moulded stops and one moulded wood corbel. There are similar moulded ceiling-beams in the room above and in the south wing. The north wing has arched stone doorways in both east and west walls as entrances to a kind of screens passage. Most of the lower story of the north wall is of old ashlar walling which may be the earliest part of the building; the upper story is of old brickwork and has two stone windows, one blocked. At the east end is a 6 ft. projecting bay with traces of a former stone window now altered. This wing was converted into a brewhouse, with a fire-place 12 ft. wide, above which is a chimney-stack of thin bricks.

In 772 King Offa is said to have granted *MANORS* land at *BEXHILL* to Oswald Bishop of Selsey for life with reversion to the see for ever.¹ The manor belonged to the bishopric until it was claimed and seized by the Count of Eu as part of the rape of Hastings, granted to him by William I.² In 1086 the count himself held in demesne 3 hides worth 40s., the whole being valued at £18 10s. Ten hides of it were held by Osbern, the rest being divided up, and among the tenants were Reinbert the sheriff, Robert de St. Leger, and Robert de Criol.³

In 1075 the seat of the bishopric was transferred from Selsey to Chichester. Bishops Godfrey, Ralph, and Sefrid unsuccessfully claimed Bexhill, but in November 1148 John Count of Eu restored the vill and churches to Hilary Bishop of Chichester,⁴ the gift being confirmed by King Stephen.⁵ The manor was to be held directly of the king as freely as the other possessions of the see, and it was to be exempt from any other services formerly due from it.⁶

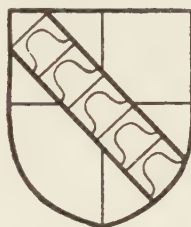
In Saxon times Bexhill had been rated at 20 hides,⁷ but the bishop apparently only recovered 10 hides, 5 of which he himself held in demesne in 1166 as two knights' fees, while two sub-tenants held the remaining 5 hides by the same service.⁸

The Act of 1559 giving Elizabeth power to take into her hands the lands of vacant bishoprics⁹ affected the see of Chichester. Bishop Montagu in 1634 says 'she took away from this poore bishopricke eight manors out of thirteen of the yearly value of £228 9s. 7d. rents of assize, all of which were given to God & the church of Chichester three hundred years before, & gave in recompense of her special grace in parsonages impropriate & in deade rente of tenths £229 2s. 6d.'¹⁰ One of these eight manors was Bexhill, certified by the Com-

missioners of Exchange as worth £160s. 7½d.¹¹ In 1570 the manor was granted by the Queen to Sir Thomas Sackville, Lord Buckhurst and first Earl of Dorset,¹² who died in 1608, leaving it to his second son Henry, a lunatic, with reversion to Henry's eldest brother Robert.¹³ Henry died a few months later, and his brother early in the following year, and the manor then passed to the latter's son Richard, on whose death in 1624 his brother Edward, fourth earl, succeeded¹⁴ and held the manor till his death in 1652. Richard, 5th earl, in 1661, in return for the estate of Knole Park in Kent granted him by the trustees of Henry Smith, who had purchased it of his uncle Richard Earl of Dorset, charged his manors of Bexhill and Cooden with an annual rent of £130.¹⁵ In 1669 he leased the site of the manor of Bexhill to Robert Wilding, yeoman, at a rent of £80 per annum.¹⁶ Richard died in 1677 and ten years later a court of the manor was held by Henry Powle,¹⁷ Master of the Rolls, whom Frances Countess of Dorset, widow of Richard, had married as her second husband. From 1690 to 1694 the courts were held by Richard Sackville,¹⁸ younger son of Frances, presumably in the absence of his brother Charles, heir to the estate, who from 1695 till his death in 1705 appears regularly on the Court Rolls as lord of the manor.¹⁹ His son and heir Lionel Cranfield, first Duke of Dorset, left Bexhill to his third son, Lord George Sackville, for life, with



BISHOPRIC OF CHICHESTER. *Azure our Lord in majesty argent seated on a throne or with a sword coming out of His mouth its blade argent its hilt and pommel or.*



SACKVILLE. *Quarterly or and gules with a bend vair over all.*



WEST, Lord De la Warr. *Argent a fesse dancetty sable.*

reversion to John Frederick,²⁰ nephew of the latter and afterwards third duke, who succeeded in 1769. The 4th duke died unmarried in 1815, and on the death of his cousin and heir, also unmarried, in 1843 the two sisters of the 4th duke, Mary Countess of Plymouth and later Countess of Amherst and Elizabeth Countess de la Warr succeeded to the property, each holding a moiety of the manor.²¹ The death of the former without heirs in 1864 left her sister sole heir, and her great-grandson Herbrand Edward Lord De La Warr is the present lord of the manor. The custom of borough English prevailed among the tenants of this manor.

A *PARK* probably existed in Bexhill from an early date. Free warren in their demesne lands in Bexhill was granted to the Bishops of Chichester by Henry II, and this grant was subsequently confirmed by Henry III, Edward I, and Henry VI.²² The latter king also granted permission to Adam Bishop of Chichester to enclose and make a park of 2,000 acres in Bexhill,²³ but no reference

¹ Birch, *Cart. Sax.* i, 13. No such bishop is recorded at Selsey. The bounds mentioned indicate that the land concerned was in the west of the parish: but the whole of Bexhill was evidently given to the see before the Conquest.

² *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 373, 397a.

³ *Ibid.* 397a.

⁴ Memo. L.T.R. Trin. 15 Edw. III, m. 6.

⁵ Dugdale, *Mon.* vi, 1168.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 397a.

⁸ *Red Bk. Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), i, 200.

⁹ *Statutes at Large*, vi, 149.

¹⁰ Harl. MS. 7381.

¹¹ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 101.

¹² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xix, 22, 23.

¹³ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccci, 71.

¹⁴ *Recov. R. Hil.* 12 Chas. I, rot. 72.

¹⁵ *Lords' Journals*, ii, 331.

¹⁶ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 101.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*; Com. Pleas D. Enr. Trin. 58 Geo. III, m. 17; *ibid.* m. 429; *Recov. R. Mich.* 6 Geo. IV, rot. 445; *ibid.* East. 7 Geo. iv, rot. 27.

²² *Cal. Chart. R.* 1226-57, pp. 31, 135; *ibid.* 1300-26, p. 101; *ibid.* 1427-1526, p. 94.

²³ *Ibid.*

to this park is to be found in later documents and it is probable that the licence was not acted upon.

In the reign of Edward I the bishop claimed by prescriptive right to have gallows, assize of bread and ale, and all wrecks of the sea in all his lands lying near the coast.¹

There is no mention of *BUCKHOLT* [Buccolte (xii cent.)] in the Domesday Survey, but it evidently formed part of the 10 hides retained by the Count of Eu after the restoration of Bexhill to the see of Chichester. The overlordship followed the descent of the rape (q.v.). Two fees in Buckholt, 'Bromsterne' and 'Somery', held by Peter de Scotney, escheated, on the forfeiture of Walter de Scotney (1259), to the Bishop of Chichester.²

Buckholt seems to have been held with Barnhorne (q.v.) in the reign of Henry I, when Ingelram (de Northeye) the man of Widelard de Balliol gave to Ralph Abbot of Battle the tithes of his land of Boccolte,³ and this was later confirmed by Henry Count of Eu.⁴

In 1276 Matthew de Hastings, son of Robert, conveyed Buckholt, then for the first time called a manor, to Margery de Northeye for life.⁵ Matthew died in the following year, when his widow Andrea claimed a third of the manor in dower,⁶ and in 1280 his son William de Hastings granted to the same Margery and William de Stokes, her husband, and John his son for their lives the manor of Buckholt, in acquittal of certain claims which the latter had on Sir William de Northeye deceased.⁷ In 1329 William's son Thomas de Hastings sued Richard Haket and Margery his wife (daughter of John de Stokes)⁸ for two parts of the manor, and Ralph atte More and Sarah his wife (apparently the widow of John de Stokes)⁹ for the remaining third.¹⁰ Subsequently, in 1333, Thomas made over the manor to Richard and Margery Haket,¹¹ and their son John Haket was holding it in 1356.¹² John Assheby, cousin and heir of John Haket, granted the manor in 1364 to William Batisford.¹³ In 1412 the manor was held by Joan Branchesle¹⁴ or Branchley, daughter and heir of William Batisford. Joan lived until 1453, and next year possession of the manor was disputed between Elizabeth, widow of Sir Thomas Leukenore, and Joan Rykhill (who married Richard Bruyn next year), daughter of Joan Branchley's sister Alice, and Sir Richard Fiennes, grandson of Joan's other sister Elizabeth.¹⁵ Sir Richard evidently succeeded, as Thomas Fiennes, Lord Dacre, his descendant,¹⁶ died seised of the manor in 1534. It subsequently follows the descent of Herstmonceux (q.v.) until 1788, when it was sold by the Rev. Robert Hare to John Fuller of Park Gate,

near Battle.¹⁷ In 1835 it is said to have been held of Bexhill.¹⁸ The estate now belongs to the trustees of the second and last Lord Brassey of Normanhurst.

The first mention of a *PARK* in Buckholt is when Richard Bishop of Chichester granted it to William de Northeye to be held by yearly render of one fat deer and one fox net.¹⁹ Apparently, therefore, this was originally part of the bishop's park. In 1544 £4 for the fee of the park keeper is mentioned among the expenses of the manor,²⁰ and in 1569 the park is said to have adjoined the site of the manor on the north side, and to have been about 1½ miles in circumference, about 20 acres lying across the stream in Crowhurst parish; it had been disparked about six years before.²¹ In 1788 when the Buckholt estate was put up for sale Buckholt House was described as 'pleasantly situated in the centre of a large manor which abounds with game of every kind'.²²

The manor of *BARNHORNE* was probably part of the 10 hides in Bexhill held in 1086 by Osbern, who may have been a member of the family of de Balliol,²³ as it was held in the time of Henry I by Ingelram 'Becchenridere', the tenant of Buckholt (q.v.), under Widelard de Balliol.²⁴ Ingelram, with the consent of Widelard, sold 3 wists, or virgates, there to Battle Abbey.²⁵ The monks developed the estate, erecting a mill and other buildings, but about 1130 Gilbert de Balliol, grandson of Widelard, seized the land, which he mortgaged to Siward son of Sigar of Hastings, and was holding Barnhorne early in the reign of Henry II, when he and Reinger, the son of Ingelram, were compelled to surrender it to the abbey.²⁶ In 1203 John de Northeye son of Reinger unsuccessfully claimed the land as the inheritance of his ancestor Ingelram.²⁷ Other small properties were acquired by the abbey in Barnhorne,²⁸ which had been constituted a manor before 1273.²⁹ The manor remained in possession of Battle Abbey until the Dissolution, after which it was granted to Sir Anthony Browne in 1539³⁰ and henceforth descended with the manor of Battle (q.v.), until the death of the Duchess of Cleveland in 1901; her trustees now hold it.

In 1307 the manor consisted of a capital messuage and garden, a dovecot, a windmill, 12 acres of wood, 13 acres of meadow, and 444 acres of arable land, of which 167 acres were salt-marsh; the value of the whole being £18 10s. 4d.³¹ There were also about 100 acres there held of the Bishop of Chichester's manor of Bexhill.³²

COODEN [Codingele (xii cent.); Codyngge (xiv cent.); Cowding (xviii cent.)] was another manor in Bexhill. The overlordship of the ¼ fee appears to have followed the descent of the rape³³ (q.v.), until it came into

¹ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 759; Assize R. 921, m. 4.

² *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, no. 405.

³ *Chron. of Battle Abbey* (ed. Lower), 58.

⁴ *Cal. Pat.* 1429-36, p. 365.

⁵ *Feet of F.* (Suss. Rec. Soc.), no. 849. Matthew had acquired it from William de Northeye: Assize R. 918, m. 44—*ex inf.* Mr. J. E. Ray.

⁶ Add. MS. 39373, fol. 48.

⁷ *Feet of F.* (Suss. Rec. Soc.), no. 1054; Add. Chart. 16182.

⁸ Add. MS. 39374, fol. 162.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ De Banco R. 279, m. 33.

¹¹ Add. MS. 39374, fol. 20.

¹² *Ibid.* fol. 162. *Coll. Top. et Gen.* vii, 119. John Coppeceorge and Richard de Swasham, who in 1339 were bound to

provide one 'hobelier' for 10 marks worth of land in Buckholt, were possibly tenants for a term of years.

¹³ Add. MS. 39374, fol. 203.

¹⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* x, 144. *Feud. Aids*, v, 152, in 1428 records one fee in Buckholt which William Bowyk, chaplain, held, but they do not know who holds it at that date, or what parish it is in.

¹⁵ Add. MS. 39376, fols. 76, 80, 81.

¹⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxxx, 24 and 25; Banks, *Dorm. and Ext. Peerage*.

¹⁷ Add. MSS. 5679, fol. 147.

¹⁸ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 428.

¹⁹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xix, 22. The date there given, 1390, seems impossible; it should probably be about 1250.

²⁰ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 147.

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² *Ibid.* fol. 149.

²³ The cartulary of Castle Acre Priory (Harl. MS. 2110, fol. 108) shows that Widelard had a son Osbern, who was father of Gilbert.

²⁴ *Chron. of Battle Abbey* (ed. Lower), 58, 116; *Cal. Pat.* 1429-36, p. 365.

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ *Chron. of Battle Abbey* (ed. Lower), 117-21.

²⁷ *Curia Regis R.* ii, 178.

²⁸ Thorpe, *Battle Abbey Chs.* 40-7.

²⁹ *Ibid.* 48.

³⁰ Mem. R. Mich. 13 Eliz. rot. 101.

³¹ *Customs of Battle Abbey* (Camden Soc.), pp. 17 and 19.

³² *Ibid.* 24.

³³ Chan. Inq. p.m. 8 Edw. III (1st nos.), no. 70.

the possession of St. Stephen's College, Westminster, but it was ultimately held in chief for $\frac{1}{40}$ of a knight's fee.¹ The first tenants of whom there is any record were members of a family of Coding. In 1242 William de Goding held a quarter fee of the Countess of Eu, which was doubtless this manor.² Later in that century Hugh de Coding was holding seven messuages in the Lowey of Battle and also lands called Codingdune. He was living in 1264, but died before 1275, leaving his son John a minor.³ A dispute which arose between the abbot and John son of Hugh concerning common of pasture was settled by a compromise in 1304, John conceding to the abbot that his bondmen and all who held tenements in the parish of Bexhill should have common of pasture through the whole year in his lands at Codingdune.⁴ In 1315 John Coding's manor of Cooden was worth 8 marks,⁵ and he appears in the subsidy roll of 1327,⁶ but had been succeeded before 1332 by Richard de Coding,⁷ whose son John was assessed in 1339 to provide one man at arms for 40s. land in Cooden.⁸ This John in 1346 had a wife Sarah and four sons,⁹ of whom the eldest, John, seems to have died about 1397, when John Coumbe, clerk, kinsman and heir of the last John, released his right in the manor to William Brenchesle or Brenchley.¹⁰ In 1428 the quarter fee was held by the heirs of John Codyng and the Lady de Brenchesle.¹¹ Joan Brenchesle was returned as holding it in 1411,¹² although her husband Sir William Brenchley was still living. Between 1400 and 1470 the estate seems to have been the subject of several mortgages and sales.¹³ It was held as a quarter fee by Thomas Baret and John his son in 1469-70,¹⁴ but shortly afterwards it appears to have been granted to St. Stephen's College, Westminster, the manor of 'Codyngton' being included among the endowments of that college in 1535.¹⁵ These passed at the dissolution of the college to the king and in 1549 Cooden, described as 'lately belonging to the college of St. Stephen's Westminster' and lately in the tenure of Richard Cowper, was granted to Thomas Gravesend and Thomas Salye, who then conveyed it to Sir Richard Sackville and Winifred his wife.¹⁶ It formed part of the possessions of their grandson, Henry, and thereafter followed the descent of Bexhill (q.v.), into which manor it was absorbed.¹⁷

PEBSHAM [Peplesham (xii cent.); Peblesham (xiii cent.); Pepsham (xvii cent.)] was apparently included in 1086 in the estate of Bollington, the whole of which was held in the time of Edward the Confessor by Levenot.¹⁸ The greater part of the property (with Pebsham) was granted after the Conquest by Robert, Count of Eu, to the Abbey of Tréport, which he had founded in 1059, and was confirmed to it by his son Henry in 1101.¹⁹ About 1196 all the property of this abbey in

the Rape of Hastings was conveyed to the Abbey of Robertsbridge, but as the latter could not pay for it at once it was agreed that the sum of 9 marks yearly should be paid at Midsummer, unless the wind was contrary, the transaction being completed in 1290.²⁰ In 1377 the Abbot of Robertsbridge was discharged by John, Duke of Brittany, from attendance at leets and hundred courts for this manor.²¹ The manor remained in the hands of the abbey until the Dissolution, when the abbey lands, including the manor of Pebsham, were granted in 1539 to Sir William Sidney and Agnes his wife.²² From this date Pebsham was held of the manor of Robertsbridge²³ (q.v.), until the end of the 17th century, by which time the overlordship had probably lapsed. The first sub-tenant in Pebsham²⁴ of whom there is definite record is John son of John de Peplesham, who in 1254 held the manor from the Abbey of Tréport, subject to a payment of £4 to the Abbey of Robertsbridge.²⁵ John de Peplesham is mentioned in the Subsidy Rolls for 1296,²⁶ and had been succeeded by 1305 by his brother Robert,²⁷ who in 1324 settled on himself and his wife Joan the manor of Pebsham together with the reversion of 88s. rent held in moieties by Thomas Wardedieu and Parnel his wife, and Katherine, formerly wife of Walter Wulsey.²⁸ A William de Peplesham is mentioned in the Subsidy Roll of 1332,²⁹ but the manor would seem to have passed by 1338 to Simon, son of Simon de Peplesham³⁰ (of Crowham), since it was held soon after by his daughter and co-heir Joan. She married Richard de Hurst,³¹ and in 1348 a suit was brought against her and her husband by a certain William de Hurst and Parnel his wife, Joan's sister,³² who claimed Pebsham as Parnel's right. The claim of Joan was, however, upheld,³³ and the manor passed to their son Richard,³⁴ who died seised of it in 1401, holding it jointly with his wife Margery, and leaving two daughters, Margaret and Philippe.³⁵ On the death of Margery, Pebsham was inherited by Margaret and her husband John Halle, who was holding it in 1411, the manor then being worth £10.³⁶ On the death of John Halle, some time after 1432,³⁷ Margaret conveyed the estate to trustees, whose refusal to restore it at her request, on her marriage with her second husband John Devenish, led to a lawsuit.³⁸ She had, however, recovered it by 1439.³⁹ In 1465 Pebsham was again in the hands of trustees, who held it for John Devenish,⁴⁰ son of John and Margaret. He married Elizabeth, one



PEPLESHAM. Sable three ducks argent.

¹ Pat. 38 Hen. VIII, pt. 11; *ibid.*
³ Edw. VI, pt. 9, m. 39.

² *Bk. of Fees*, 691.

³ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), 111; *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 216.

⁴ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 230. ⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, 210. ⁷ *Ibid.* 321.

⁸ *Coll. Top. et Gen. vii*, 120.

⁹ *Feet of F.* (Suss. Rec. Soc.), no. 2018.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* no. 2675; *Cat. Anc. Deeds*, ii, C. 2410. ¹¹ *Feud. Aids*, v, 151.

¹² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* x, 144. She was the daughter of William Batsford and Margery de Peplesham.

¹³ *Feet of F.* (Suss. Rec. Soc.), no. 2720; *Cat. Anc. Deeds*, C. 2709, C. 240; *Surveys and Rentals*, 658.

¹⁴ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 231.

¹⁵ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), i, 429.

¹⁶ *Cal. Pat. Edw. VI*, iii, 60, 107.

¹⁷ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxxix, 147.

¹⁸ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 397a and note 3.

¹⁹ *Cal. Doc. France*, 80.

²⁰ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), pp. 45, 59-60, 106, 125-6.

²¹ *Ibid.* 148.

²² *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (1), 906 (7).

²³ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 183.

²⁴ A Hugh de Peplesham was holding Crowham in 1210: *Red Bk. Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), ii, 554.

²⁵ *Curia Regis R.* 154, m. 3 d.; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* liii, 79.

²⁶ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, 17.

²⁷ Add. MS. 39373, fol. 207.

²⁸ *Feet of F. Suss.* 18 Edw. II.

²⁹ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, 326. In the Muster Roll of 1339 William de Lessingham is returned as holding Pebsham, perhaps as lessee: *Coll. Top. et Gen.* vii, 119.

³⁰ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), 147.

³¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* liii, 80.

³² Add. MS. 39394, fol. 226.

³³ *De Banco R.* 356, m. 366.

³⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxx, 143.

³⁵ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 2 Hen. IV, no. 1.

³⁶ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* x, 145.

³⁷ *Feet of F. Suss. Mich.* 11 Hen. VI.

³⁸ *Early Chan. Proc. bdle.* 11, no. 233.

³⁹ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxiii, no. 3024.

⁴⁰ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 181.

of the daughters and co-heirs of Sir Thomas Hoo, and their son Richard Devenish died seised of Pebsham in 1534,¹ leaving a son Thomas, who in 1541 granted the estate to Thomas Goslyng for a rent of £30 yearly.² In 1545 the latter conveyed it in trust to Henry Hardson and Barbara his wife to sell to Anthony Pelham 'together with the salt houses and all furnaces belonging to the same'.³ At Anthony's death in 1566 his son Herbert Pelham succeeded,⁴ the manor being then worth £20. Being in pecuniary difficulties in 1613 his son Herbert, with Elizabeth his wife, mortgaged, and two years later sold the estate, with reservation of services by the vendor, to Sir Thomas Pelham of Laughton,⁵ who in 1622-3 received pardon from the king for acquiring it without a licence.⁶ Sir Thomas died in 1624, when the property passed to his son, also Thomas, whose widow was in possession in 1674.⁷ From this date Pebsham descended in the family of Pelham, as the manor of Crowhurst (q.v.), but records of it are lacking after 1738.⁸ It is now represented by Pebsham Farm.

GLYNE [Glynde, Glyndewith (xvi cent.)] was granted in 1528 to John Baker, the King's Attorney-General.⁹ It remained for more than a century in the Baker family, Sir Richard Baker being the owner in 1572-3.¹⁰ In 1601 it was settled on Thomas Baker, on his marriage with Constance Kingsmill, and in 1622 was settled on Constance and their younger son Richard. Sir Thomas died seised of it in 1625,¹¹ and it seems to have passed to the elder son Thomas, for he and Alice his wife sold the 'manor or farm' in 1647 to Benjamin Scarlett and others.¹² From that time its history is obscure. In 1665 it appears in the hands of Richard Alfray, associated with others, and in 1671-2 was conveyed to him by John and Mary Lowe,¹³ after which there is no further record of it.

The manor of **GOTHAM** [Goteham (xv cent.)] was held by Richard Lyvet, whose son Thomas granted it to Sir James Fiennes, but the grant was disputed in 1445 by Richard's daughter Elizabeth and her husband William Gilderigge.¹⁴ It evidently remained in the family of Fiennes and descended with the manor of Herstmonceux. It appears in 1484-5 associated with that manor in Court Rolls,¹⁵ and follows its descent throughout. Record of it is lost after 1819,¹⁶ but a house of the name still survives.

Another manor in the parish of Bexhill was **NORTHEYE** [Norhie (xiii cent.); Norzie (xiv cent.)], the town of this name being a member of the Cinque Port of Hastings certainly as early as the reign of Henry III.¹⁷ Northeye is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey. A family taking name from Northeye existed in the neighbourhood from the time of Henry I. Ingelram de Northie was then holding Buckholt and Barnhorne, and was succeeded by his son Reinger¹⁸ or

Berenger, who was under age and in ward to his uncle Alvred de St. Martin.¹⁹ Reinger's son John was still living in 1203,²⁰ but he seems to have left no issue, as Reinger's heir in 1224 was his niece Rose, wife of James son of William.²¹ In 1246, after her death, James conveyed to their son William de Northeye a messuage and 150 acres in Bexhill and Hooe, in exchange for a life interest in Rose's land in Bexhill.²² Sir William had succeeded his father by 1248, when he made an agreement with the Abbot of Battle for draining the marsh.²³ He apparently sided with the barons, and in May 1264 his lands in Northeye were placed in the hands of John de Warenne.²⁴ This Sir William de Northeye had a son John, who, however, died before 1269,²⁵ and the male line seems to have become extinct. The first actual mention of the manor is in 1276, when Matthew de Hastings conveyed the manors of Northeye and Buckholt to Margery de Northie for life.²⁶ From William son of Matthew de Hastings it passed to his son Thomas, who in 1325 was holding the manor jointly with his wife Joan.²⁷ In 1345, however, he gave up all his right in the manor to Richard Smelt, citizen and fishmonger of London, and Margery his wife,²⁸ who granted it to Reynold de Cobham,²⁹ afterwards Lord Cobham of Sterborough, who played an important part in the French wars of Edward III. He also held the office of Warden of the Cinque Ports and was nominated a Knight of the Garter c. 1353. He died of the pestilence in 1361,³⁰ when the manor was held in dower by his widow until her death in 1369, after which her son Reynold succeeded.

The manor then consisted of one capital messuage worth £2, 300 acres of land of which two parts could be sown and were worth 18s. and those which were not sown were worth 8d. per acre, pasture for 20 oxen and cows worth 30s., rent 18d.³¹ It was then held of William de Echingham for the service of 20s., but was parcel of the Cinque Ports. His son, a third Reynold Cobham, succeeded in 1403, and was assessed in 1411 for the manor of Northeye, then worth £36.³² On his death in 1446 the property passed to his second son Thomas who was permitted to hold it for the direct heir, his niece. On his death in 1471 Northeye passed first to Margaret, daughter of his elder brother Reynold and wife of Ralph Earl of Westmorland, but after her death reverted to his own daughter Anne, who married first Edward Blount, Baron Mountjoy, and secondly Edward Lord Burgh, who became a lunatic in 1510 but survived until 1528.³³ From



COBHAM of Sterborough. *Gules a chevron or with three stars sable thereon.*

¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxvii, 108.

² Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 33 Hen. VIII.

³ Close, 37 Hen. VIII, pt. 1, no. 52.

⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxlviii, 11.

⁵ Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 13 Jas. I.

⁶ Suss. Arch. Coll. xxxvii, 47.

⁷ Recov. R. Mich. 26 Chas. II, ro.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid. East. 11 Geo. II, ro. 291.

¹⁰ Cal. Ashburnham Doc. (Lewes), i, no. 641.

¹¹ Ibid.; Recov. R. Hil. 14 Eliz. ro. 323.

¹² W. and L. Inq. p.m. 42 (105).

¹³ Cal. Ashburnham Doc. (Lewes), i, no. 641.

¹⁴ Feet of F. Suss. East. 17 Ch. II; ibid.

Hil. 16-17 Ch. II; ibid. Hil. 23-4 Ch. II.

Richard Alfray died in 1684. (Monument in Bexhill Church.)

¹⁵ Add. MS. 39376, fol. 40, quoting De Banco, East. 24 Hen. VI, m. 337 d.

¹⁶ Add. Ch. 31602.

¹⁷ Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 59 Geo. III.

¹⁸ Suss. Arch. Coll. xix, 18.

¹⁹ Lord de L'Isle and Dudley (Hist. MSS. Com.), p. 39, where Reinger's younger brother John is mentioned.

²⁰ Curia Regis R. ii, 178.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Curia Regis R. 85, m. 29.

²³ Suss. Rec. Soc. xx, no. 430.

²⁴ Ibid. no. 499.

²⁵ Cal. Pat. 1258-66, p. 315.

²⁶ Lord de L'Isle and Dudley (Hist. MSS. Com.), p. 113.

²⁷ Feet of F. Suss. 4 Edw. I, no. 24.

²⁸ Ibid. Mich. 19 Edw. II.

²⁹ Cal. Close, 1343-6, p. 566.

³⁰ Chan. Inq. p.m. 43 Edw. III, pt. 1, no. 26.

³¹ Ibid. 35 Edw. III, pt. 1, no. 62.

³² Chan. Inq. p.m. 43 Edw. III, pt. 1, no. 26.

³³ Suss. Arch. Coll. x, 143.

³⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xviii, 100; G.E.C. Complete Peerage (2nd ed.), ii, 422.



BEXHILL: THE MANOR HOUSE



BEXHILL CHURCH, FROM THE NORTH-EAST: c. 1785
(From a drawing in the Burrell Collections)



BEXHILL CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST: BEFORE 1878

Anne the manor passed successively to her son Thomas and her grandson William Lord Burgh, and the latter sold it in 1566 to Anthony Viscount Montagu,¹ who died seised of it in 1593.² In 1627 and 1628 Anthony, the next viscount, settled Northeye on his daughter Frances, on her marriage with John Blomer.³ Their son John leased the manor in 1654 to Matthew Taylor for 21 years,⁴ and a little later there was some dispute with the Crown, who owned certain marshlands in Northeye, but John Blomer was able to prove in 1661 that these did not include the manor.⁵ John died without issue and Northeye passed to his sister Mary wife of Sir John Webbe, bart., and was settled upon their son John in 1691–2, on his marriage with Barbara Belasyse.⁶ John Webbe junr. appears to have conveyed the manor to Henry Pelham of Stanmer in 1724,⁷ and it remained in that family.⁸ It is last mentioned as a manor in 1828.⁹

The parish church of *ST. PETER*¹⁰ *CHURCHES* (referred to before the Reformation as the church of St. Peter and St. Paul) stands in the old village. The alleged grant of 772, already referred to, was for the building of a 'minster' in Bexhill, and the early use of this site for the purpose of Christian burial is shown by the discovery in 1878 of a coped stone with interlaced work of the 9th century.¹¹

The present church consists of a nave flanked by a north aisle and chapel of four bays, an aisle of five bays on the south side, a western tower with the aisles extending on each side of it, a chancel, with a lateral chapel on the south and a vestry and organ-chamber on the north.

Owing to various rebuildings and enlargements this church is largely of 19th-century date, the only ancient parts remaining being the tower, the arcades of the nave, and the chapel on the north side of the nave. From photographs and descriptions of the old church, it consisted of a nave and north and south aisles of three bays, with a 13th-century chancel, on the north side of which was the present chantry chapel. In 1878 the church was enlarged by pulling down the chancel,¹² and lengthening the nave about 23 ft. eastward and building a new chancel of the same dimensions as the old one but at that distance farther eastward; pulling down the south aisle and porch and building a larger one; and in 1907 by pulling down the north aisle and erecting a much larger one. At the same time the south aisle was extended westward flanking the tower.

The east end of the present chancel has three deeply splayed lancet windows, the head of the centre one being higher than those on either side, filled with modern stained glass. The eastern corners of the chancel have clasping buttresses, a quarter engaged, with a plinth and an offset. There is also a gable cross. In these respects the chancel reproduces the features of the old chancel, which also had three lancet windows on the south side and one on the north. The modern chancel has, on the south side of the sanctuary, one lancet window, but none on the north side, where is a modern vestry which has two small windows on both its north and eastern sides and a door on its western

side. It is covered by a roof of two gables at right angles from the main chancel roof. Between the vestry and the chapel on the north side of the nave is an organ-chamber opening into the chancel. This has no external lighting and is covered by a flat roof.

On the south side of the chancel there are triple sedilia, westward of which is a doorway and arch opening into the chancel aisle. This dates from 1878; in the east wall is a two-light window, with the spandrel pierced by a quatrefoil light. On the south side there is an almost similar two-light window but with unpierced spandrel, and a single lancet to the west of it. This chapel has a separate gable roof. Internally it is separated from the south aisle and the chancel by modern screens.

The chancel arch is the only part of the old chancel which was preserved in 1878. The responds and bases are modern, but the impostes and the stones of the arch are ancient, *c.* 1400. The arch is of two orders, each with a hollow chamfer. Below the chancel arch is a modern oak screen of late-14th-century design divided into five bays, the lower portions of the bays filled with moulded and traceried panels. Above the arches is a carved rood-beam, having 13 carved angels. The centre opening is closed with wrought-iron gates. The oak reredos and the panelling and wall paintings of the chancel are all modern.

The nave is of composite character. For 23 ft. westward of the chancel arch it is an extension on the site of part of the earlier chancel. On the south side this portion is connected with the modern south aisle by two arches, each of a single order, separated by a round pier. The arches die into the plain chamfered responds.

On the north side of this eastern portion of the nave is a wider arch opening into the chantry chapel. It is of two orders, the outer carrying a hollow chamfer and the inner a double ogee moulding, and springs from responds, the caps of which have mouldings, in which the ogee is prominent. This chapel is 20 ft. 8 in. by 13 ft. 4 in. internally and is a mid-15th-century addition built at the eastern end of the old north aisle, with which it communicated by an arch of two orders, the outer with a hollow chamfer and the inner a wave moulding dying into the wall on each side.

This is the chantry chapel on the north side of the chancel of which Dr. Thomas Pye states that he 'repayred and turned it into a schole house'.¹³ This chantry was founded in pursuance of the will of Joan Brenchesle made in 1453.¹⁴

The chapel was lighted by three 15th-century windows—of which one in the eastern wall is of three lights and the other two in the north wall are each of two lights; externally they have hood moulds with horizontal stops. When the space east of the chapel was enclosed to form an organ-chamber, the glass in the eastern window was replaced by organ pipes. The two northern windows contain modern stained glass. The chapel is covered with a flat leaded roof bearing the names of 'Thomas Grover and John Nash, Churchwardens Anno 1687'. There is a double plinth running round the north and east sides and there is a diagonal

¹ Recov. R. Trin. 28 Hen. VIII, ro. 405; *ibid.* Hil. 3 & 4 Phil. and Mary, ro. 420; Add. MS. 5680, fol. 43.

² *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxiii, Inq. no. 134.

³ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxxvii, 48.

⁴ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xx, 321.

⁵ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxxvii, 51; *ibid.* xxxiii, 276.

⁶ *Ibid.* xxxvii, 57.

⁷ *Ibid.* 73; *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xx, 321.

⁸ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxxvii, 80 and 90; Recov. R. Trin. 24 Geo. III, ro. 326.

⁹ *Ibid.* Mich. 9 Geo. IV, ro. 299.

¹⁰ For a detailed account of the church see *Suss. Arch. Coll.* liii, 61–108.

¹¹ *Ibid.* xlvi, 154.

¹² A figure of St. Christopher and other traces of medieval painting were found when the chancel was pulled down: *ibid.* liii, 96.

¹³ Par. Reg.

¹⁴ See below.

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buttress at the north-west corner with another at the western end—both having two offsets.

Formerly the chancel arch was in line with the west wall of the chapel, and the nave to the west of this chapel represents the nave as it existed before 1878 and was 38 ft. 4 in. long by 15 ft. wide at the west end and 17 ft. 9 in. wide at the east end. It consists of three bays on each side. The easternmost of these is of 13th-century date, consisting of a pointed arch of two orders resting on corbels on deeply undercut caps, below which, on the western sides, are circular shafts, a quarter engaged; probably the eastern sides were originally of this form but were cut away for the rood screen. These arches were evidently inserted in a pre-existing wall, as the south wall had begun to lean outward before they were built. To the west of these arches and separated from them by a short length of plain wall are a pair of Norman arches on each side formed by a free pier and two responds. This interesting arcade may be assigned to a date shortly after 1148 when the Bishops of Chichester recovered Bexhill from the Count of Eu.

The two free piers are circular and the responds are semicircular; the arches rest on caps and abaci carved in one piece, the top edge being square in profile. On the north side the caps are ornamented with inverted cones and scallops, while on the south there is an attempt at leaf patterns. The bases have flattened annular rolls and between them a deep 'water-holding' hollow. This arcade was evidently pierced in a pre-existing wall, as at the restoration it was seen that behind the plaster there was a small space round each arch of looser rubble than the remainder of the wall and that a continuous sleeper wall existed below the arches.¹ The wall above these arches is not more than 2 feet thick and herring-bone work was found in it. It has therefore been assumed that these walls are part of the pre-Conquest church. This arcade bears a close resemblance to the three bay arcades at Icklesham Church, and both are probably the work of the same masons.²

The north aisle, which is connected with the nave by this arcade and is the latest addition to the church, replaces the old north aisle pulled down in 1907. This destroyed aisle was of early-15th-century date, having an internal length of 61 ft. 6 in. and a width of 9 ft. 3 in., and had four buttresses dividing it into three bays, in the eastern of which were two windows, in the middle bay a door and one window, and in the west bay (which flanked the tower) a window. All three windows were of two lights with horizontal drip label. The door had been blocked up, but the stones were preserved and re-erected in the new aisle as a north door. The new north aisle is much larger, being 61 ft. long by 23 ft. wide, having a pair of right-angle buttresses at each corner, between which are two others. There are three two-light windows and the old north doorway rebuilt into this wall. At the west end is a pair of two-light windows and there is a small light at the east end. All the windows have square heads with labels, and tracery of Kentish type. The leaded roof is nearly flat and is supported internally by hipped tie-beams with brackets. In the second window from the east end has been placed some 14th- and 15th-century glass that was taken from this church in the 18th century and after having been successively at Strawberry Hill and Hardwick Hall near Bury St. Edmunds

has been bequeathed to the church by the late owner. The principal panels represent the Coronation of the Virgin and are very similar to those in the east window of Hooe church.

On the south side of the nave was formerly a narrow aisle, 9 ft. 9 in. wide, with 15th-century windows and an exterior stair to a manorial pew in a gallery in the south aisle; and eastward of the chancel arch was a small chapel, 11 ft. by 9 ft. 9 in., probably of 14th-century date. All this was swept away in 1878 and a wider and longer aisle was built, terminating at the eastern wall of the tower. At the east end this aisle opens into the south chapel and on the south side has two buttresses, between which is a three-light window, and between the second buttress and the porch a pair of two-light windows, all with square heads. On the second buttress is preserved a stone inscribed 'T. Pie D. 1607'.

The south door is protected by a stone porch with a timber south front, having two small lights in the east and west walls. West of the porch the south aisle has been extended to the western face of the tower and is now 82 ft. long by 19 ft. wide. This extension contains a three-light window in the south wall and a similar one in the west wall. All the windows in the aisle are filled with modern stained glass.

The western tower, which is of the same width as the nave, being 15 ft. wide by 18 ft. 6 in. long, has in the lower part evidences of Norman work in two semicircular openings, each 6 ft. in width, in its north and south walls; these have plainly chamfered imposts running through the walls and were opened out in 1907. The tower opens to the nave by a pointed arch with plain soffit running through the wall and in its north jamb is a number of axe-tooled stones. The west door and window above are probably insertions of the 15th century, but the tracery in the window was inserted in 1878 and the doorway refaced. There are two buttresses at the western angles of the tower, which are also probably 15th-century additions. The upper part of the tower was rebuilt in 1878. It contains the ringing-chamber in which are eight bells, two of which date from the 18th century and the rest from 1892.³

There are monumental tablets to Thomas Delves (vicar 1661-77), Richard Alfray (1683), Thomas Milner (vicar 1686-1722), and others of more recent date.

The plate⁴ consists of a communion cup and paten of 1775; a chalice of 1887; a paten and a flagon of 1723, bequeathed by Thomas Milner, vicar, and bearing his arms; a paten of 1874; and a flagon of 1886; all being of silver.

The register begins in 1558.

The church of *ST. ANDREW*, in Wickham Avenue, was built in 1900. It is of brick, faced externally with flints and stone dressings, and consists of a square chancel and a nave of three bays with aisles opening into it by flat arches springing from iron pillars.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S, Cooden Drive, was begun in 1933 and is still incomplete. It is of brick with stone dressings, and consists of chancel, nave, north and south aisles, and north porch. Only two bays of the nave, with arcades of round arches springing from square piers, have been built; three more are planned, as well as a tower at the north-west angle.

ST. BARNABAS, in Lower Sea Road, was built in 1891 from the designs of Sir A. Blomfield at the cost

¹ *Par. Mag.*

² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xlvi, 48.

³ Before they were recast six of the bells dated from 1769: *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 200.

⁴ *Ibid.* lv, 184-5.

of the Rev. Preb. C. L. S. Clarke (rector 1876–89) and enlarged in 1909 with money left by his daughter, Miss Evelyn Clarke. The church is externally of flints with stone dressings; internally the walls and octagonal pillars are of red brick, the bases and capitals of the pillars and the soffits of the arches being of stone. The original church comprised a wide chancel, shallow transepts, and a four-bay, clerestoried nave, with north and south aisles. In 1909 a second south aisle, as long and nearly as wide as the nave, was added with a semi-octagonal apsidal Lady Chapel at the east, and a baptistery screened off at the west end.

ST. MICHAEL'S, Glassenbury Drive, built in 1929 in the style of the early 13th century, is of brick with stone dressings. It consists of chancel, nave, south aisle, and tower. The nave is of five bays, and the aisle arcade is of pointed arches springing from octagonal pillars. The aisle is roofed externally with four gables.

ST. STEPHEN'S, Woodgate Park, was begun in 1898. It is of brick with stone dressings, and comprises an apsidal chancel, north and south transepts, and a nave of four bays, with aisles, the western bay of the south aisle forming the lowest story of the tower.

The church of *ST. MARK*, in the hamlet of Little Common, was built in 1842, to which date the nave belongs, of stone (said to have been taken from a Martello Tower). The chancel was added in 1857, the south aisle in 1870, and a northern transeptal chapel in 1931. There is a turret containing one bell. The style is Early English and there is a good modern carved screen.

The church of *ALL SAINTS*, in the hamlet of Sidley Green, is a building in the Perpendicular style; the nave, built in 1909, is of brick, rough-cast; the chancel and tower (1927–8) are of stone. The nave is of six bays, with square wooden pillars supporting the arcades to the aisles. There is a porch in the middle of the north wall and another in the base of the tower in the north-east angle.

The description of Bexhill given in *ADVOUSON* 1086 included two churches, of which one was undoubtedly Bexhill, while the other was probably that of Northeye.¹ After the seizure of Bexhill about 1070 Robert Count of Eu granted the church to the College of St. Mary in the Castle, in aid of the prebends,² and in 1086 Geoffrey and Roger, clerks, were holding one hide in Bexhill (*in prebenda*),³ presumably as an additional endowment. The church was attached to the prebend of William Fitzallack, which was probably dissolved when the Bishop of Chichester recovered the manor and advowson of Bexhill.⁴ A vicarage was ordained before 1246, when the gift was in the king's hands by reason of the voidance of the see of Chichester.⁵ In 1321 licence was granted to William de Loppedelle, rector of Selsey, to enfeoff Thomas Whetston, vicar of Bexhill, of 3 acres of land and 12*d.* rent in Bexhill in augmentation of his vicarage.⁶ The Valor of 1535 gives the value of the church as £24 10*s.* 2*d.*⁷ Although Bexhill was detached from the see of Chichester in 1561 the bishops have

retained the patronage of the church down to the present time.⁸ Bexhill was declared a rectory in 1866. The new ecclesiastical parish of St. Mark was formed out of the parish of Bexhill in 1857. The benefice, at first a district chapelry, was declared a rectory in 1867, and is also in the gift of the bishop,⁹ as are the vicarages of St. Barnabas (1891) and St. Stephen's (1900). That of All Saints, Sidley Green, is in the gift of the rector of Bexhill.

A *Chantry* known as the Batisford Chantry was founded in the church of Bexhill in 1453 under the will of Joan Brenchesle or Brenchley, widow of Sir William Brenchley and daughter of William Batisford. The advowson was vested in the Archbishop of Canterbury.¹⁰ In 1535 it was valued at £7 16*s.* 6*d.*, exclusive of 3*s.* 6*d.* rent paid to Thomas Devenish, a remote heir of Joan Brenchesle. In 1547 this rent was paid to Anthony Pelham at the manor of Pebsham. At its suppression in 1548 the value of the chantry was declared to be £8 6*s.* 8*d.* per year, and there was a chalice weighing 9 oz. worth 26*s.* 8*d.* The incumbent was granted a pension of £6.¹¹

It is probable that one of the two churches mentioned in the Domesday Survey of Bexhill was that of Northeye. This was apparently destroyed with the town in the 13th century,¹² as a chapel of Northeye was endowed, and probably built, about 1262 by Sir William de Northeye in honour of St. James.¹³ Its endowments included lands in Hooe and Bexhill, pasture for two cows and their two-yearling calves, and for ten sheep with their lambs; also from March to October pannage for six hogs with those of the donor 'wheresoever they should be taken to feed', subject to the stipulation that they should be under the control of the herdsmen of the founder.¹⁴ If the patron neglected to fill up a vacancy within forty days the bishop should appoint.¹⁵ In 1535 the chapel was valued at 53*s.* 4*d.*,¹⁶ and it was farmed for the same amount at the time of its dissolution. In 1547 the 'Free Chapel called North Chapel' still belonged to the rectory, but in the following year it (i.e. its land) was held by Richard Sackville for a term of years. The incumbent received a pension of only 40*s.*¹⁷ The chapel was situated outside the ancient town of Northeye, within the Liberty of the Sluice, in 'Chapel Field', on the road to Barnhorne.¹⁸ The site is marked on the maps of Speed in 1610, and Carey in 1787, and in 1870 the remains 'trifling in extent' are said to have been standing a few years before.¹⁹

The Roman Catholic church of St. Mary Magdalen, in Sea Road, a sandstone building in the style of the 15th century, was erected in 1908. There are also a Presbyterian Church of England (1898) in Cantelupe Road, and St. Paul's Evangelical Church, in Wickham Avenue. The Congregationalists have a church in London Road, and there are two Methodist chapels and one Baptist chapel.

Church Lands. It is understood that *CHARITIES* from time immemorial the vicar and churchwardens of St. Peter's, Bexhill, had received rents from certain lands in this parish for

chapel and to provide four pounds of wax for candles on the feast of St. James.

¹⁵ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xix, 25, 26.

¹⁶ *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), i, 341.

¹⁷ *Sussex Chantry Records* (*Suss. Rec.* Soc. xxxvi), 8, 30, 56, 93, 145.

¹⁸ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xix, 5–8.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

¹ *Ibid.* xix, 7.

² *Anct. D.* (P.R.O.), D. 1073.

³ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 397.

⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiii, 135, 136; *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 112.

⁵ *Cal. Pat.* 1232–47, p. 473.

⁶ *Ibid.* 1321–4, p. 33.

⁷ *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), i, 345a.

⁸ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

⁹ *Lond. Gazette*, 11 Jan. 1867.

¹⁰ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* liii, 80; *Suss. Rec.*

Soc. xxxvi, p. xxiii.

¹¹ *Ibid.* 30, 87, 126.

¹² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xix, 12.

¹³ *Ibid.* 23; *Bp. Rob. Rede's Reg.* (*Suss. Rec. Soc.*), 426–9.

¹⁴ The founder and his heirs were to maintain the fabric and ornaments of the

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the maintenance of the parish church and the celebration of divine service. Part of the land has been sold and the endowment now consists of about 24 acres of land situate at Kewhurst, Collington, and Lower Pear Tree Lane, Little Common, let at £43 15s. 0d. per annum, and stock producing in dividends about £160.

Miss Hannah Dalby, by her will dated 4 April 1906, bequeathed £200 to the rector and churchwardens of St. Peter's for benefit of poor members of St. Peter's Church. The endowment produces about £6.

Mrs. Agnes Adeline Emma Russell, by her will dated 31 October 1927, bequeathed £100 to the rector and churchwardens, the income to be applied in repair of St. Peter's churchyard and Barrack Road burial ground. The endowment produces about £4 10s. in dividends.

The Charity of Miss Evelyn Stanley Clarke, founded by will proved in London on 4 March 1899, is regulated by a scheme of the High Court of Justice dated 12 November 1907. The endowment produces annually about £9, which is paid to the vicar and churchwardens of St. Barnabas and applied in defraying the ordinary expenses of conducting divine service in St. Andrew's Church.

The Church Site, founded by conveyance dated 13 May 1913, when land situate in Terminus Avenue, Bexhill, was conveyed to the Chichester Diocesan Trustees, has now been sold and the proceeds applied towards the erection of a church on land comprised in a conveyance of 22 December 1930 made between Hubert Edgar Mayhew, the Parochial Church Council of St. Barnabas, Bexhill, and the Chichester Diocesan Fund and Board of Finance.

John David Atchison, by his will proved in London on 12 May 1925, directed that all his moneys and premises and the income thereof should be held upon trust to be applied by the rector and churchwardens of St. Peter's, Bexhill, towards erection of a stone church at or near Sidley Green in Bexhill. An Order of the Court, dated 17 May 1928, directed that the whole of the testator's residuary estate, but not exceeding £19,088, being the total estimated amount required for the enlargement and final completion of the said church, be paid to the rector and churchwardens of St. Peter's.

The Wesleyan Methodist Chapel and Trust Property at Belle Hill, comprised in indentures dated 5 November 1825 and 2 November 1886, is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners of 19 Febru-

ary 1904 which appoints trustees and provides that the Chapel and Trust property shall be held upon the same trusts as 'The Wesleyan Chapel Model Deed'.

London Road Congregational Chapel and Victoria Hall, comprised in indenture of 13 August 1897, is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners, dated 29 June 1928, which directs that the charity be administered by the Sussex Congregational Union.

Bexhill Trust. By Declaration of Trust, dated 18 December 1917, Joseph Barker Wall, Mayor of Bexhill, and 6 others raised certain funds, and intended that appeals should be made to the public for subscriptions, donations, &c. to be used for relief of poverty, for advancement of education and religion, and other charitable objects. The mayor and deputy mayor, ex-officio, and seven others are the trustees of the charity. The endowment produces in dividends £35 14s. 2d. per annum which, with subscriptions and donations, is disposed of in grants in cash.

Bexhill Children's [Memorial] Trust. By Declaration of Trust, dated 1 March 1921, George Herbert Gray, Mayor of Bexhill, and 7 others raised £800 cash and intended that appeals should be made to the public for subscriptions, &c. to be used, both capital and income, to promote the interests of the children of Bexhill men who had fallen in the war. The mayor, ex-officio, and 8 others are the trustees of the charity. The income and part of the capital money is expended in school fees and boots and clothes.

Mrs. Margaretta Hill, by her will proved in London on 8 February 1929, gave to the treasurer of the committee formed for the building and endowment of a hospital at Bexhill £1,000 for the endowment of a bed or other purpose which may be associated with her husband's name.

Bexhill Hospital. By conveyances, dated 11 October 1927 and 22 December 1928, the Bexhill Hospital Trustees purchased land in Bexhill for the erection of a hospital out of public funds. The hospital building was completed in 1931 and officially opened in 1933.

There is also a Borough Isolation Hospital at Clinch Green.

The Roberts Marine Mansions, opened in 1903, were founded by Sir John Reynolds Roberts, J.P., at a cost of £20,000, as a convalescent home for persons connected with the drapery and allied trades; and the Metropolitan Convalescent Institution has two branches, of which the women's was opened in 1881.

HUNDRED OF FOXEARLE

CONTAINING THE PARISHES OF

ASHBURNHAM

HERSTMONCEUX

WARTLING

AT the time of the Domesday Survey the hundred of Foxearle contained the parishes of Herstmonceux, Ashburnham, and Wartling,¹ and subsequently portions of Warbleton and Dallington were included in it.

The hundred included the head tithings of Herstmonceux, Ashburnham, and Wartling with the lesser tithings of Cobbeche (Cowbeach), Boreham, and Dyll.² Two 'law days' were held, at Easter and Michaelmas, at Windmill Hill in Wartling, and the tithings of Boreham and Wartling did suit at that court instead of at the hundred court.³ This court was sometimes called the Hundred Court of Wartling.

The officers of the hundred, who were always chosen at the Easter court, were two headboroughs, only one of whom was sworn, two constables and two aldermen, the duty of one alderman being to serve every three weeks at the lathe court at Sedlescombe, and the other alderman with the tithing men did suit at the sheriff's tourn.⁴

The hundred followed the descent of the rape until it was granted with view of frankpledge in 1436 by Joan, widow of Sir John Pelham (who held it in dower), to Sir Roger Fiennes,⁵ and this grant was confirmed by the younger Sir John Pelham and Sir Thomas Hoo. The latter also confirmed it to Sir Richard Fiennes, afterwards Lord Dacre, though he excepted the issues of Wartling and Bucksteep.⁶ From this date it follows the descent of Herstmonceux (q.v.) until it was acquired by the Earl of Ashburnham in the 19th century.

¹ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 396.

² Add. MS. 5680, fol. 548. The site of 'Dyll' seems to have been near Bucksteep, in Warbleton (*Place-Names of Sussex*, ii, 435), possibly at Tiles Farm. The Hearth Tax of 1662 (Lay Subs. 258, no. 21), identifies it with Dallington.

³ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 548.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Close, 14 Hen. VI.

⁶ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 549.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

ASHBURNHAM

Esseborne (xi cent.); Essheburneham (xiii cent.); Assheborneham (xiv cent.).

The parish of Ashburnham is about 4 miles from Battle station and contains 4,079 acres of land, of which 28 are covered with water. The road from Lewes to Battle, after skirting the south of Ashburnham Park, passes in a south-easterly direction to Wartling. The River Ashburn rises to the north of the village and unites with streams from Bucksteep and Rushlake just above Boreham Bridge, when it runs through a marshy plain to the sea at Pevensey. The land rises gradually from 50 ft. in the extreme south of the parish to ridges of hills in the north varying from 300 to 400 ft. Ashburnham Place, the seat of the Ashburnham family, lies in a park of 1,000 acres with a circumference of 8 miles.

The park, comprising a wide expanse of typical undulating wealden country, dense woods, predominantly oak, and great open stretches of grass-land diversified by clumps of trees, is one of the largest and most beautiful in Sussex. The very extensive gardens of the house, beside one of the few lakes of the county, present in their formality a delightful contrast to wild nature all around. Except for modern roads the whole parish is practically unchanged since early Victorian days. The Place, though of huge dimensions, is not very interesting. The vast expanse of 19th-century brickwork discards the symmetry of earlier days without finding any other quality in substitution, displaying two commonplace towers and a perfect army of chimneys. No existing features seem to antedate the house erected in 1665 by John Ashburnham, the trusted friend of Charles I, and the most distinguished member of his family. He rebuilt the church in really surprisingly good gothic for that period; but erected his own house in the uncompromising classic style associated with the name of Sir Christopher Wren. A large oil painting (in a room off the great stair) shows a building nearly square and of two stories with a heavy cornice, a high roof with attics, and one projecting wing. Its gardens are rather formal; the architecture is exceedingly plain. This is borne out by one of its rooms which remains, the walls panelled right up to the bold and very simple cornice, displaying the favourite bolection mouldings of the period. The window shutters appear to have been altered in the 18th century. The late-17th-century stair is of well type, reaching three levels, with turned balusters which closely resemble the communion rails of the church. A print of 1783¹ shows the house as enlarged and reconstructed by the second earl. It has a very plain long classic façade, the central gable or pediment 5 window spaces wide, the end ones 3, the two intervening spaces each having 2. What 18th-century work still survives is very devoid of character for a mansion on such a scale.

A view of 1831² shows an enormous extension of the house toward the south-east, displaying turrets of mongrel Tudor type; but this early-19th-century work was refaced and still further enlarged in early Victorian red brick. The chambers are stately, capacious, and very ambitious, but the style lacks original distinction. A great hall is made the centre of everything, as in mediæval times. It is a vast flat-ceilinged, corniced chamber,

entered from the gardens through a porch in the centre of a long side, a door opposite leading into the new great stair, which is in a columned classic style and has a glass roof. The hall has no dais or screen; both ends are alike with large figured fire-places, beside which doors open into a series of large asymmetrically disposed apartments, interesting as illustrating the last word in Victorian taste. One is rather effectively treated in white and gold with the pseudo-baroque details that again became fashionable when men tired of the purer classicism of the Adams. Another has fairly exact copies of the panelling of the 18th century. The most striking of these apartments has its walls painted in the Roman tradition with symmetrical festoons of flowers, foliage, fruit, and birds framing large pictures of classic subjects and an inlaid marble fire-place. A large bow-window recess has its walls covered with silk, framing large pastoral paintings. The impressiveness of these chambers is much enhanced by the splendid furniture and, more important, one of the best series of pictures in Sussex, including works by Raphael and other Italians as well as Lucas de Heere, Quentin Matsys, Mabeuse, Cuyp, and Lucas van Leyden. At the two ends of the hall are the great portraits of the Duke and Duchess of Richmond by Sir A. Van Dyck, and in the room with classic panelling Charles I and Henrietta Maria by the same master.

The famous relics of the royal martyr are preserved in a glass case in the hall; they were formerly kept in the church. The most interesting is Charles's watch, which he is believed to have handed to his friend immediately before his execution. The sovereign's interest in works of art and especially in clocks and watches is well known, and this watch is peculiarly beautiful, with coloured flowers over the face. There are also the king's silk drawers and his very full shirt marked 'C R' with crown above, which he was wearing at the time of his death; also the sheet which was thrown over the body immediately afterwards. A rather more gruesome relic is a lock of hair cut from the body in 1813 in the presence of the Prince Regent. There is also a small but interesting collection of the king's letters to John Ashburnham.³

The ironworks of Ashburnham were formerly of great importance.⁴ In 1574 John Ashburnham appears as the owner of two forges and one furnace here. The Upper Forge, which was in a detached portion of Dallington now absorbed into Ashburnham parish, was sold in 1611 to William Relfe but was bought back in 1680 by John Ashburnham. The works were flourishing in the early 18th century and continued in use until about 1825, being then the last ironworks existing in Sussex. Traces of them are still to be found, and the names Hammer Wood, Forge Lodge, and Furnace Wood perpetuate their memory. Beds of ironstone and limestone have been found to a depth of 120 ft. The surface soil is mainly sandstone, some of which is solid enough for building purposes.

By Local Government Board order, dated 24 March 1887, Buckwell, a detached part of Dallington, has been transferred to this parish, and a detached part of this parish has been annexed to Ninfield.

¹ In the British Museum is a tinted drawing by Grimm, also dated 1783, of the east front: Add. MS. 5670, fol. 68. The

best collection of drawings of Ashburnham Place is in the house itself.

² One of the collection in the house.

³ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxxvi, 160-71.

⁴ Straker, *Wealden Iron*, 364-72.



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ASHBURNHAM PLACE, FROM THE SOUTH



ASHBURNHAM CHURCH, FROM THE NORTH-EAST, *c.* 1785
(From a drawing in the Burrell Collections)



ASHBURNHAM CHURCH: THE COMMUNION PLATE

In 1086 *ASHBURNHAM* formed part *MANORS* of the possessions of the Count of Eu and the overlordship followed the descent of the rape (q.v.). It was held for 2 knight's fees.¹

It was in 1086 held by Robert de Criol, the Saxon tenant having been a certain Seward, and it was assessed at 2½ hides.² The connexion of the family of Criol with that of Ashburnham is not known.³ In 1166 2 fees were held of the Count of Eu by Reynold de 'Oseburnham'.⁴ This Reynold in 1194 gave to Robertsbridge Abbey land in Burwash, of the fee of Ashburnham.⁵ His son Stephen de Ashburnham⁶ died about 1212, when his widow Alice obtained her dower.⁷ Stephen's son Richard⁸ was holding the 2 fees in 1242.⁹ Bartholomew son of Richard had trouble with the Abbot of Bayham over a watercourse in 1253.¹⁰ Bartholomew seems to have been succeeded by Richard, who, as lord of the manor of Ashburnham, was alleged in 1275 to have ill-treated his tenants and reduced them to utter ruin by extortionate demands; as they were villeins they could obtain no redress.¹¹ John de Ashburnham was in possession in 1296.¹² Bartholomew,¹³ son of John, took part in the rising of the barons against Hugh le Despenser in 1321, and was attainted and executed the following year.¹⁴ His lands were forfeited, but were restored to John his brother and heir¹⁵ in 1327 as it was found that Bartholomew had held the manor of the Earl of Richmond and not of the king in chief,¹⁶ and in the following year John received a grant of free warren in his demesne lands there.¹⁷ He died in March 1335, leaving an infant son John, having settled the manor on his wife Isabel, widow of John de Grofhurst.¹⁸ In 1340 Isabel, then the wife of Simon de Aylardenne, claimed one-third of the manor against Henry de Grofhurst,¹⁹ possibly her son by her first husband. Henry de Grofhurst was in possession in 1339 and 1343.²⁰ In 1371 John Ashburnham leased the manor to William Steel and Nicholas Despagne for life,²¹ and they immediately granted it for their lifetime to Richard Hall.²² Shortly afterwards John Ashburnham was imprisoned for a debt of £600 owed to a certain Nicholas Greve.²³ His son and heir, also John, who was assessed in 1412 at £20 for his estate at Ashburnham,²⁴ served in the retinue of the Duke of Clarence at the Battle of Agin-



ASHBURNHAM.—Gules a fesse between six molets argent.

court.²⁵ Thomas Ashburnham, son of John, appears in 1428 as holding 2 fees in Ashburnham, one-fourth only of which he held in demesne.²⁶ The estate passed through four successive generations to John Ashburnham, M.P. for Sussex in 1554–5, whose will was proved in 1563, when his son John was under age.²⁷ The latter succeeded and died in 1591, leaving a son John aged 20²⁸ who was knighted in 1604 and whose 'good nature and frank disposition towards his friends'²⁹ necessitated his selling the family estate. It was purchased in 1611 by Edward Bromfield, afterwards Lord Mayor of London, and Thomas Overman.³⁰ The former bought out Overman's interest in the estate³¹ and sold it in 1634 to William Relfe³² of Mayfield, who settled it on his second son William as a marriage portion³³ in 1637. In 1633 John Ashburnham had petitioned the Council for permission to repurchase his estate,³⁴ which had been a ruinous burden on its possessors, but it was not until 1639–40 that he obtained leave to levy a fine with the guardian of the heiress of William Relfe junior, and suffer a recovery of the same.³⁵ His position as M.P. for Hastings and servant of the king soon became an impossible one and in 1643 his estates, including Ashburnham, then valued at £70, were sequestered, the petition of his wife for some allowance being rejected.³⁶ In 1648 he had to compound for one half of his estate at a rate of unusual severity.³⁷ He was a faithful adherent of Charles I, and as Groom of the Bedchamber attended the king on the scaffold at his execution in 1649, and retained the king's watch and some of his clothing, which are still treasured possessions of the Ashburnham family.³⁸ After the Restoration he was restored to his position of Groom of the Bedchamber and was elected Member of Parliament for Sussex.³⁹ His grandson, John, who succeeded him in 1671, was created Baron Ashburnham in 1698, and from him the manor passed successively to William, second Baron, and John, who 'in consideration of his great merits' in 1730 received the title of Viscount St. Asaph and Earl of Ashburnham.⁴⁰ From him it passed through four successive generations to Bertram, 5th Earl of Ashburnham, at the death of whose brother in 1924 the male line became extinct. The manor is now held by Lady Catherine Ashburnham, daughter of the 5th Earl.

AGMERHURST [Hagemereshirst, Augemerehurst (xiii cent.)], is first mentioned in 1207, when it belonged to William de Bodiam, William de Hugham being the sub-tenant.⁴¹ It evidently remained in the possession of the lords of Bodiam, for in 1278 Henry

¹ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 396b; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, 232; *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, nos. 405 and 1858.

² *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 396b.

³ As late as 1271 Edmund son of John de Cruel granted to John de Pysing lands held of Simon his brother in Oremarehurst in Ashburnham, among the witnesses being Richard de Esburnham: Thorpe, *Battle Abbey Chs.* 48.

⁴ *Red Bk. Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), i, 203.

⁵ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), p. 45.

⁶ Thorpe, *Battle Abbey Chs.* 16.

⁷ Pipe R. 14 John.

⁸ Thorpe, op. cit. 16.

⁹ *Bk. of Fees*, 692.

¹⁰ *Cal. Close*, 1251–3, p. 511; cf. *Feet of F.* (Suss. Rec. Soc.), no. 574.

¹¹ *Coram Rege R.* 19, m. 14 d.

¹² *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, 8.

¹³ He had succeeded his father before 1305, when he was still under age: *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 103.

¹⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* ix, 372; *Cal. Close*, 1318–23, p. 673.

¹⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vii, 31.

¹⁶ *Cal. Close*, 1327–30, p. 73.

¹⁷ Chart. R. 3 Edw. III, m. 12, no. 42.

¹⁸ Assize R. 941, mm. 3 d., 24 d.; Add. MS. 39379, fol. 159.

¹⁹ Add. MS. 39374, fol. 50.

²⁰ *Coll. Top. et Gen.* vii, 119; *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 1858.

²¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. 45 Edw. III (1st nos.), no. 67.

²² Close 45 Edw. III, m. 30. Roger, brother of John, is associated with them in this deed.

²³ Chan. Inq. p.m. 45 Edw. III (1st nos.), no. 67.

²⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* x, 144.

²⁵ Ibid. xv, 125.

²⁶ *Feud. Aids*, v, 150.

²⁷ P.C.C. 20 Chayre.

²⁸ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cclxiv, 131.

²⁹ Monument in St. Andrew's Church, Holborn.

³⁰ Feet of F. Suss. East. 9 Jas. I; *Cal. Ashb. Doc.* i, no. 489.

³¹ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 23.

³² Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 10 Chas. I.

³³ *Cal. Ashb. Doc.* (Lewes), i, no. 574.

³⁴ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1633–4, p. 300.

³⁵ Ibid. 1639–40, p. 187; *Cal. Ashb. Doc.* (Lewes), i, nos. 593–615.

³⁶ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1648–9, p. 334; *Cal. Com. for Compounding*, 1863.

³⁷ Ibid. Cf. *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1650, p. 520.

³⁸ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxiv, 3. See above.

³⁹ Collins, *Peerage* (ed. Brydges), 259.

⁴⁰ Ibid. 262.

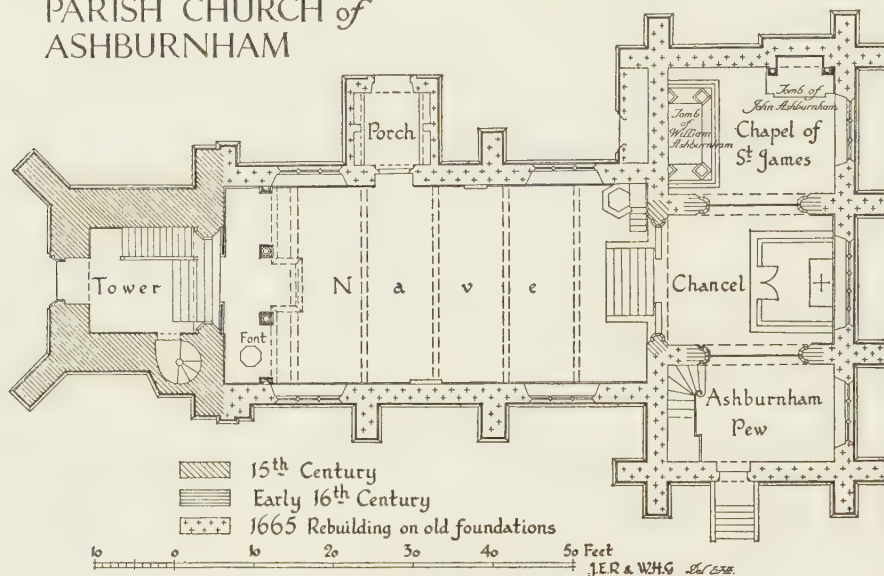
⁴¹ Feet of F. (Suss. Rec. Soc. ii), no. 116.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

Wardedieu, Lord of Bodiam, released to the abbot and convent of Battle all services for tenements in the fee of Agmerhurst.¹ It remained with Battle Abbey until the grant of that house to Sir Anthony Browne in 1538.² From him it passed to his son Anthony, afterwards Viscount Montagu, being described in 1582 as a 'messuage situate on the highway leading between Battle and Ashburnham Mill' in the tenancy of 'Joan Wykes one of the daughters of Simon Martin'.³ Francis Viscount

A messuage called *KITCHENHAM* in this parish was very early associated with a family of that name. A Ralph de Kitchenham who is mentioned about 1245¹⁴ was probably the father of that Eleanor daughter of Ralph who leased land in Ashburnham between the demesne and the Great Park to Elias Attewode. This property had formerly been held by Godwin de Ketchenham.¹⁵ Elias de Kechenham is recorded in the Subsidy Roll of 1296 in Ashburnham.¹⁶ John de Ash-

PARISH CHURCH of ASHBURNHAM



Montagu was holding it in 1631 when for the first time it is called a manor.⁴ From this date it follows the descent of the manor of Battle (q.v.). The tenants of this manor hold by the custom of borough English.⁵ In 1724 the lands of the manor lay round Freckley, with Kitchingham, Castle Wood, and Lotmans on the north, Kites Down, Chanters Down, Harrington, and Beadlescroft on the south.⁶

The manor of *WILSHAM*, the name of which survives in Wilson's Cross, was also known as *MEGHAM*.⁷ It is first mentioned as a manor in 1563, when it was in the possession of John Ashburnham,⁸ but it seems to have existed as an estate from the 14th century.⁹ In 1328 Richard de Wylesham granted his tenement in Wylesham, adjoining the highroad leading from Robert de Wylesham's house to 'Wyleshames Crouch', to Ralph Bat of Boreham.¹⁰ In 1375 John de Wylsham and Cristine his wife, and their son Robert, still held land in Wilsham, part of which Cristine as a widow granted to another son, John, in 1392.¹¹ Like other estates in the parish it was acquired by the Ashburnhams, and after 1563 remained attached to the manor of Ashburnham (q.v.). It was said in 1640 to have been held of the manor of Wilting in Hollington,¹² but in 1563 of Penhurst Manor.¹³

burnham was granted free warren there in 1328,¹⁷ and it remained thereafter attached to the manor.¹⁸

In 1086 there was a manor of *FRANKWELL* [Francwelle (xi cent.)] in Ashburnham which six knights then held under the Count of Eu; one of them, Norman, had held it in Saxon times for 1½ hides, but his holding had now been reduced to half a hide, the rest being divided between Ralph, Hugh, Osbern, Wenenc, and Girard.¹⁹ It gave its name to a family of de Frankwelle, who are mentioned down to the close of the 14th century.²⁰ There is no record of it as a manor²¹ after 1086 and it presumably was divided up and the manorial rights thus became lost.

The church of *ST. MARY*²² consists of *CHURCH* chancel, north chapel, south chapel, nave, north porch, and west tower. It is built throughout of brown sandstone, in ashlar masonry, and the roofs are covered with tiles.

In 1665 the whole church, with the exception of the 15th-century west tower, was rebuilt at the charges of John Ashburnham. But for repairs carried out in 1893, the fabric remains practically as when built, and it is a well-designed and rare example of a church erected during the latter part of the 17th century, when the renaissance style of architecture was prevalent through-

¹ Thorpe, *Cal. of Battle Abbey Charters*, 50.

² Pat. 30 Hen. VIII, pt. 3, m. 11.

³ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 21.

⁴ Recov. R. Hil. 7 Chas. I, ro. 15.

⁵ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* vi, 178.

⁶ Map penes Messrs. Hasties.

⁷ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 11-12. Adam de Wylesham was dealing with land in Megham in 1262: *ibid.* vii, no. 701.

⁸ P.C.C. 20 Chayre.

⁹ Members of the de Wylesham family

occur from the middle of the 12th century.

¹⁰ Anct. D. (P.R.O.), C. 3378 and C. 3685.

¹¹ *Ibid.* C. 3223, 3470, 3296, and 3467; Feet of F. *Suss. Trin.* 14 Ric. II.

¹² Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), deci, 8.

¹³ P.C.C. 20 Chayre.

¹⁴ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), 98.

¹⁵ Anct. D. (P.R.O.), C. 3996.

¹⁶ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, 8.

¹⁷ *Cal. Chart. R.* 1327-41, p. 89.

¹⁸ *Cal. Ashb. Doc.* (Lewes), i, no. 489.

¹⁹ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 396b.

²⁰ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, 208 (Subs. Roll); *Place-names of Sussex*, ii, 478.

²¹ Except that Henry Mitchell of Brighton in his will, 1789, speaks of his 'manor and freehold estate of Frankwell': *Suss. Arch. Trust Deeds*, C. 390.

²² The dedication, which has in the past been given as St. James and St. Peter, is now known to have been St. Mary: *Suss. N. and Q.* vi, 88; *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xli, 59.

out the country, yet in which the gothic style is followed in all the structural parts with the exception of the porch, and even here gothic and renaissance forms are blended. The floor of the nave stands 3 ft. 6 in. above that of the tower, and the floor of the chancel 3 ft. 6 in. above that of the nave, a flight of seven steps at the chancel arch leading from the nave up to the chancel and another flight of seven steps at the tower arch from the nave down to the tower. A vault extends underneath the chancel and side chapels.

The chancel has an east window of five cinquefoiled lights with a transom and tracery, slightly repaired, in a four-centred head; there is no label. In the north wall is a pointed arch of two chamfered orders with semi-octagonal responds. The mouldings of the capitals and bases of the responds are distinctly renaissance in form. This arch opens to the north chapel and a similar arch opens to the south chapel. The chancel arch is of similar character but that the capitals of the responds show a somewhat crude employment of gothic forms. With the exception of the east window of the chancel all the windows of the church are alike. They are each of three tall cinquefoiled lights with interlacing tracery in a four-centred head. They have no labels on the outside and the inner jambs and arches are plain, the plaster of the walls being carried round them. With the exception of that in the south chapel their mullions are of oak. These oak mullions may be original, but in view of the exception, and of the great liability to decay of such tall unsupported mullions in stone, the probability is that they are replacements.

The north chapel has a window in the east wall. There is no window in the north wall, but at the east end of the wall is a wide recess, the back of which projects outside, for the great monument of John Ashburnham, now standing within and in front of it. In the west wall is a doorway with a four-centred head, bearing the inscription above the head 'I.A. 1665'. This doorway and a small window above it were blocked for the monument of Jane, Countess of Marlborough, and William Ashburnham. An outer doorway with its original oak panelled and studded door leads to the vault. In this chapel the relics of Charles I used to be exhibited.

The south chapel also has one window only, in the east wall: here the stone mullions are preserved. In the south wall is a doorway with a four-centred head and inscription above, as in the north chapel. This doorway is the private entrance into the church from Ashburnham Place. A later gallery, approached by an internal stairway at the west wall, forms the proprietary pew. The chapel itself below the pew is used as a vestry.

The nave has two windows in the north wall, spaced widely apart, and two opposite them in the south wall. There is no doorway in the south wall, but between the windows on the north a round-headed doorway opens from the porch. Here renaissance forms predominate. The round head has architrave mouldings, a keystone emphasized by pyramidal projections both on the outer and lower faces, and plain block imposts. The jambs have mouldings with stops below the imposts and at the base, and the whole stands within a square-headed moulded frame with roundels in the spandrels. At the west of the nave is a pointed tower arch of two chamfered orders. The semi-octagonal responds, which are unusually wide, have plain moulded capitals and bases, cut away in places, probably for the gallery. Across the west of the nave and below the tower arch there is a

gallery, supported on oak Ionic columns, of the 17th century but extended and repaired at later periods. It is approached by a fine wood stairway, constructed up the sides of the tower, with balusters, moulded hand-rail, and carved newel finials. From an entry, dated 1649, on the fly-leaf of the earliest register it appears that a gallery had been given to the church some years previously by Dame Elizabeth Richardson, Baroness of Cramond, formerly wife of Sir John Ashburnham. There are indications that the present structure has been refitted in its present position; parts of it also, including the Ionic columns, are rather of the early than the latter part of the century. It is very probable therefore that this gallery was taken down from the old nave and refitted with additions in the new one.

The porch has an outer doorway similar in character to that into the nave but that it has no outer framework and that the imposts as well as the keystones have pyramidal projections. A horizontal string moulding is carried across the head of the doorway and above this level the front of the porch is projected out on corbels on either side and surmounted by a small gable flanked by pinnacles. The side walls are embattled. There are no windows, but on each side of the porch internally are two wide recesses.

The walls of the church are strongly buttressed and are surmounted by embattled parapets: a deep moulded plinth, broken round the buttresses, is carried all round the church. The floors of the chancel, chapels, and nave are all paved with large stone slabs. The chancel has a waggon-shaped roof divided by thin ribs into large plastered panels. In the roof over the nave the panels are more strongly emphasized by main and subsidiary ribs. The north chapel and the porch have plastered barrel roofs and the south chapel a flat plastered ceiling. These roofs have been restored.

The tower is of three stages with angle buttresses at the west and a turret stairway at the south-east. It is surmounted by an embattled parapet. The west doorway has a four-centred arch in a square head with small plain shields in the spandrels: the labels have stops carved with the Pelham buckle. Above the doorway is a large three-light pointed window with modern tracery. The second stage is pierced by small rectangular openings and on each side of the bell-chamber is a square-headed window of two cinquefoiled lights.

The font has a marble octagonal bowl with moulded edges and curved underside, and a stone moulded base. It dates from the 17th century, as does the oak cover, which has a flat base from which rises a central stem supported by openwork brackets and surmounted by a bulbous terminal. The altar, with large bulbous legs, is Elizabethan and perhaps belonged to the old church. It is enclosed by a 17th-century communion rail which has balusters and moulded rail and is returned back on the east wall on either side. In the south chapel there is another table which may have been used as a communion table at one period. It has baluster legs and is of 17th-century date. There is also a large oak chest of the same period.

Below the chancel arch there is a high wrought-iron screen of upright square bars, set diagonally and connected only by rails near their pointed heads and at their feet. It is divided into bays by large twisted bars terminated by gilded foliated finials of plate iron. Precisely similar screens stand in the tower arch and in the arches between the chancel and the chapels on either side. All date from the period of the rebuilding of the

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

church. There were originally high pews, and the oak dadoing round the walls of the nave remains, but the high pews were cut down in 1893. Much of the old work, however, was re-used in the new seating. The pulpit also appears to have been remade from old and new material. Above the chancel arch in a large wood foliated frame, and flanked by painted figures of Moses and Aaron, are the Tables of the Commandments. This work, which is dated 1676, formed the reredos behind the altar until the end of last century. The translation of the Decalogue is from an earlier version than that of 1611. The north doorway retains its original oak panelled and studded door.

Within the north chapel are the monuments of the Ashburnham family. Against the north wall stands the magnificent monument of John Ashburnham, who rebuilt the church, and who died in 1671. It is of white and black marble and consists of an altar-shaped tomb on which lie the recumbent effigies of John Ashburnham and his two wives; and placed against the wall above the effigies in an architectural setting of the Corinthian Order is a long inscription, the whole surmounted by the achievement of the Ashburnham arms. The wall at the back of the monument is covered with black marble within a moulded frame of white marble. All the effigies have their hands in attitude of prayer. John Ashburnham wears a helmet and armour of the period. His first wife, Frances, daughter and heir of William Holland of Westburton, Sussex, by whom he had eight children, lies on his left. She wears a long robe and a veil over her head. The thumbs of this effigy are broken off. On his right is his second wife, widow of Lord Powlett of Honiton St. George, Somerset, and daughter and heir to Christopher Kenn. She is in a long flowing robe which is tucked round her feet, and wears her hair in long curls and has a coronet on her head. In front of the tomb, kneeling on either side of a prie-dieu, are figures in high relief of four sons and four daughters.

Against the west wall of the chapel stands a monument to Jane Countess of Marlborough, who died in 1672, and William Ashburnham her husband, who was cofferer to Charles I and Charles II and died in 1679. Their effigies, in white marble, are on a large slab of black marble which lies on an urnlike tomb. The countess reclines on a low couch while a laurel wreath is being placed upon her head by a cherub. Her husband in robes and full wig kneels with arms outstretched. The tomb is flanked by urnlike pedestals supporting on the south, the side of the countess, a coronet and a nautilus shell, and on the north a helm and a large cockle-shell. On the wall above the effigies is a canopy with curtains held back by cherubs, and a shield—gules a fess chequy argent and sable between six crosslets or—for Boteler. The countess was the third daughter of James, Lord Boteler of Brantfield, and third wife of James Ley, 1st Earl of Marlborough, and after-

wards married William Ashburnham. The monument is a very fine example of the work of John Bushnell,¹ and its typically renaissance grouping contrasts strongly with the unusually late medieval tradition of John Ashburnham's monument. Suspended high up on the wall to the west of the first monument are a helm, gauntlets, swords, spurs, and coronets; and, below them, two indecipherable shields of arms. On the south wall of the chapel there is another helm with two gauntlets. Supported on iron brackets on the wall plate of the roof are the scanty remnants of three flags.

There are four bells: (1) by John Wilmar, 1632; (2) inscribed T.G., 1621; (3) by Bryan Eldridge, 1640; and the tenor by John Waylett, 1714.²

The communion plate is all of silver gilt and consists of a cup and cover paten of 1665; a cup of 1668; a pair of patens on feet of 1665; a paten on a foot of 1667; a pair of flagons and an alms dish of 1695.³

The registers begin in 1538.

A church existed at Ashburnham in *ADVOWSON* 1086⁴ and was granted to the priory of Hastings between 1200 and 1237,⁵ in which year it was confirmed to the canons by Ralph Neville, Bishop of Chichester.⁶ A vicarage had been ordained by 1291, worth £6 13s. 4d., the church being valued at £10.⁷ In 1535 the values are given respectively as £8 12s. 2d. and £2 13s. 4d.⁸ In 1538 the priory estates, with the rectory and advowson of the vicarage of Ashburnham, were granted to John Baker, who exchanged them with the king for lands in Kent.⁹ They were granted by the Crown in 1541 to the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury.¹⁰ In 1632 the patronage, probably by grant of the latter, was held by George Littleboys of Ashburnham,¹¹ who sold his lease of the rectory, excluding the advowson, to John Ticehurst of Wartling, who in 1649 as a delinquent compounded for two-thirds of it.¹² In the same year George and John Littleboys and John Ticehurst sold it to John Ashburnham.¹³ A lease of the rectory was held at this time by Dean Turner and on its expiration in 1660 John Ashburnham wrote to him proposing a renewal.¹⁴ The patronage remained in the hands of the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury until 1810.¹⁵ By 1813 it had been acquired by George Earl of Ashburnham,¹⁶ whose descendant, Lady Catherine Ashburnham, still holds it.

The Almshouse. The Parliamentary Returns of 1786 mention that the Almshouse appears to have been for the reception of 6 poor widows. The foundation is assigned by tradition to Sir William Ashburnham, comptroller of the household of Charles II. In 1817 the almshouse, situate in the highway leading from Hoad's Corner to Battle, was pulled down and a more convenient habitation erected. The charity has always been considered to emanate from the private voluntary bounty of the head of the Ashburnham family.

¹ See article by Mrs. Esdaile in *Ann. Walpole Soc.* xv, 34 and pl. x.

² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 198.

³ *Ibid.* lv, 207.

⁴ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 396b.

⁵ *Ibid.* ii, 76.

⁶ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiii, 156.

⁷ *Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, 137b.

⁸ *Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.)*, i, 342.

⁹ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiii (i), g. 646 (34); *Pat.* 33 Hen. VIII, pt. 2, m. 6.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* pt. 9, m. 20; *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xvi, g. 878 (59).

¹¹ *Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.)*.

¹² *Cal. Com. Comp.* 2088.

¹³ *Cal. Ashburnham Deeds (Lewes)*, no. 668.

¹⁴ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* ix, App. i, 122.

¹⁵ *Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.)*.

¹⁶ *Recov. R.* 1813, rot. 17.



HERSTMONCEUX CASTLE, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST

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HERSTMONCEUX CASTLE, FROM THE SOUTH-WEST

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HERSTMONCEUX CASTLE: THE NORTH FRONT

HERSTMONCEUX

Herste (xi cent.); Hurst Mounceux (xiv cent.); Horsemounceux (xvi cent.); Hurst Mounsey (xvii cent.).

The parish of Herstmonceux, including Flowers Green, Gardner Street, Stunt's Green, and part of Windmill Hill, is divided by the main road from Lewes to Battle into two nearly equal parts. Numerous other roads intersect the parish in all directions. The nearest station is Hellingly, 4 miles distant. In the south of the parish about 4 miles from the Sussex coast, from which it is separated by the flat marsh lands of Pevensey Level, in a valley lies Herstmonceux Castle. The park was described in 1570 as 'three miles about and well set with great timber trees'.¹ There were also five avenues by which the house was approached, but these have disappeared and little timber remains. The church is situated on the brow of the hill to the south-west of the castle, with which it was connected by an avenue of oaks, but the rectory lies on the road to Hailsham. In the churchyard is a very ancient yew tree of great size, and beneath it is the grave of Julius Hare, rector of Herstmonceux from 1832 to 1855, one of the most influential churchmen of his time. Before succeeding his uncle in the rectory he was Fellow and Classical Lecturer of Trinity College, Cambridge, for many years and in 1840 became Archdeacon of Lewes. Many religious works were published during his residence at Herstmonceux and also his *Life and Remains of Sterling*.

The general slope of the land is from north to south, the height varying from 200 ft. at Clippingham Wood in the north to 50 ft. in the south.

In 1342 the inhabitants of Herstmonceux were 'all engaged in the cultivation of the land and the tending of their flocks and herds'.² Agriculture is still the main occupation, many farms being dotted about the parish. A large proportion of the total acreage of 6,507 acres is permanent grass, and some wheat and barley is grown. The parish is somewhat sparsely wooded, there being only about 500 acres of wood and plantations. There are also brickworks and trug-basket factories, Herstmonceux being the only place in Great Britain where the baskets, formed of slips of peeled wood, are made.³

Gardner Street is a hamlet on the road from Battle to Hailsham. Parts of Cowbeech and Stunt's Green were by Local Government Order of 25 March 1886 transferred from Wartling to Herstmonceux.

Apart from the castle, the parish is not rich in old buildings. The Place, built largely of materials from the dismantled castle, is in the main an 18th-century house of fine proportions with large bow-fronted wings, and contains much beautiful internal detail showing Wyatt's handling of Adam decoration. The north-west front is a fine late-17th-century design in brick, and is a survival of an earlier building, of which much of the structure remains within the present house.

Gardner Street contains several 18th-century buildings displaying brick and clap-boards, but nothing of real interest. The very plain Friends' meeting-house is dated B.H. 1734 and the deterioration in the quality of local brickwork is strikingly displayed in the square, galleried Congregational chapel, which is dated 1811.

Timber-framed houses are far less in evidence than in the more northern parts of the Weald, but there are examples in the buildings now known as Ivy Cottage and Monks Rest; both seem to belong to the 17th century and display quite ordinary oak framing, brick chimneys, and ingles.

Herstmonceux Castle is a castle only in name, although its size and appearance are strictly in keeping with its title. When Sir Roger Fiennes, in 1440, resolved to rebuild his manor-house on a new site, he designed it in the form of a castle and furnished its external walls with the picturesque features of the military architecture that was then going out of use. Its plan is practically a square with projecting octagonal towers at the four angles and three intermediate towers on each side, excepting the south side, where the double towers of the main entrance increase the number by one. The centre tower on the east, west, and north sides reaches the height of the angle towers, which rise a stage above the parapet, while the remainder are carried up to the general battlement level. The intermediate towers project from the face of the building, showing five sides of the octagon, and are built with a considerable batter. The central tower on the north forms a secondary gate-house. The external dimensions (excluding the towers) are 193 ft., north to south, and 183 ft. 6 in. east to west.

The buildings within the external wall were disposed around four courts. A continuous range adjoined the outer walls, the western range containing the kitchens and domestic offices,⁴ and across the square thus formed was built another range containing the great hall, the south wall of which stood a little south of the axis of the whole. The hall-range and the southern range were connected by a building running north and south, which left a large square court on the east and a narrow one called Pump Court on the west. The former was surrounded by a cloister which carried galleries on the first floor. North of the hall were two small courts, the eastern one being subsequently reduced by the construction of a large Elizabethan staircase. Most of the internal buildings were removed when the castle was dismantled in 1777, the external walls and the gate-house being the only parts left virtually intact.

Before the demolition a set of drawings was made by James Lambert,⁵ but they are not sufficiently detailed to make it possible to trace its architectural history with certainty. It is quite clear that the whole castle was roofed with tiled roofs of steep pitch, the listing of those of the two southern sections remaining against the walls of the gate-house tower. The fire-places were furnished with tall slender chimney-stacks, each flue having a separate shaft. These are shown on Lambert's drawings and all are not of the same period.

The main structure of the castle is of brick, the length of the bricks being slightly over 9 in. They were probably burnt on the site. It is customary to ascribe the larger brick buildings of this period to foreign influence or foreign craftsmen, and from contemporary records it appears that overseers were often drawn from the Low Countries. But there is no reason to think that

¹ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 266.

² *Inq. Non.* (Rec. Com.), 372.

³ For an account of the industry see *Suss. County Mag.* x, 604-5.

⁴ These, in 1570, were 'well served

with fair water conveyed from a spring over the mote in troughs of timber': Add. MS. 5679, fol. 266. Horace Walpole in 1752 writes of the kitchen as having 'three vast funnels to the chimneys going up on the

inside': *Walpole's Letters* (ed. 1903), iii, 115.

⁵ One set is in the library of the Sussex Archaeological Society at Lewes; other drawings are in Add. MSS. 5670 and 5676.

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Herstmonceux was not built by English workmen. The walls are solid brick throughout, and where undisturbed are still in perfect condition. Windows, doors, dressings, parapets, &c., were all of greensand-stone from the Eastbourne beds.

The quadrilateral was surrounded by a continuous moat on all sides; that on the north towards the garden, having its bed at a higher level, was perhaps dry. On the east side the moat extended as far as the bed of a small stream, running south, and formed a broad mere. In the grounds of Herstmonceux Place, north of the castle where the stream rises, a chain of lakes was constructed at a series of descending levels, each furnished with sluice gates, to form a reservoir for replenishing the moat in dry seasons. The moat was filled by damming the stream with the causeway that still exists south of the castle. The water was released shortly before 1570¹ and the moats drained, their beds being converted into gardens, but they are now filled again. Colonel Lowther excavated and more than doubled the width of the moat on the south side.

The main gate-house on the south is approached by a bridge, of which the three northern arches date perhaps from the 17th century. They are semicircular and of brick with cut-water buttressed piers. The parapet had disappeared before the recent restoration. There was a space left between the northern arch and the gate-house to take the drawbridge.

The south elevation is practically as shown in Lambert's drawing of 1775. The walls and towers are all battered and there is a moulded stone plinth course at ground-floor level, 13 ft. 6 in. above the bed of the moat. Another moulded stone course runs below the battlements and is carried round the intermediate towers, but stops against the angle towers just below the corbelling which carries a small stair to each tower roof. The gate is flanked by octagonal towers changing above the upper string-course to a circular plan, the overhanging segments being carried on corbels. There are three stages of cruciform arrow-loops.² Between the towers is a lofty recessed 4-centred arch of moulded stone, enclosing two stories, the lower having the entrance archway (4-centred of moulded stonework) fitted with the original oak doors, and the upper a two-light transomed window with cinquefoiled heads within a square moulded frame. The vertical slits for the drawbridge chains flank this window and the space below. Between the upper circular parts of the towers is a panel of stone with a seated wolf holding a banner with the Fiennes' arms, carved in high relief, between a pair of two-light transomed windows with plain arched heads in a square frame. The whole of the front of the gate-house is crowned with bold machicolations carried on stone corbels and a battlemented parapet with two cross-loops in the centre portion. Two high circular turrets of smaller diameter than the towers rise above the latter and are approached by back stairs on the north which are shielded by walls with stepped parapets.

The remaining transomed windows on the south front have square heads and may be 17th-century enlargements of the original lights.

The central tower of the east front forms a semi-octagonal apse to the chapel which rises the full height of two stories. It has three two-light windows³ on

adjacent faces of the tower, divided by transoms, and with arched heads to the upper and lower lights. The intermediate tower between the chapel and the south-east angle was altered about 1600, the upper part being converted into a large circular bay window of nine lights, divided again by two transoms into three tiers. This window lights the drawing-room, long called the Ladies' Bower. The fenestration of the front north of the chapel was entirely altered by Thomas Lord Dacre, Earl of Sussex, about 1670. Large regular openings with stone architraves were formed for the sash windows of the period, and these being cut in many places through the former piers of solid brickwork, the original window openings had to be filled up, and their vestiges still show on the face of the wall.

The north front to the garden has in its central tower the small garden entrance already referred to with brick toothing on the buttresses left apparently for some bar-bican-like projection over the bridge. Between the buttresses and above the door is a projecting panel of brickwork flanked by the grooves for the drawbridge chains. The buttresses are carried up to support a triple machicolation; over that is an embattled parapet pierced with cross-loops. The present bridge is comparatively modern. The windows on this front include several dating from the 1670 alterations; otherwise, apart from repair, it is in its original state. The west front too is tolerably preserved.

Of the original work within the courtyard little remains. The rebuilding successively by Colonel Lowther and Sir Paul Latham has been on quite other lines than those of the original plan. The north face of the gate-house remains and part of the continuation of its walls, and the south face of the north range is preserved within the new cloister. The garden entrance, with both its arches, and part of a circular brick stair farther east are left *in situ*. The south gate-house retains its lierne brick vault (rebuilt by Colonel Lowther) and the brick newel stair at its NE. angle is intact. A vaulted passage-way which formerly traversed the four main ranges of building below the level of the inner courts remains and is in use for water and electric mains, but its barrel-vault has mostly disappeared. It connected with a small room below ground level in the SW. tower, locally known as the dungeon.⁴

The arrangement of the new buildings and their relationship with the old work is clearly shown on the drawings. It may be worth noting that there are three features of historic and architectural interest now incorporated in the castle. They are (1) the staircase from Theobalds, Herts., which was built for James I, now fixed in the south staircase hall; (2) the fine carved stair (*temp.* Charles II) from Wheatley Hall, Doncaster, now over the west entrance hall; and (3) the oak chimney-piece and overmantel from Madingley Hall, Cambs., now in the Long Gallery, in the north range.

The walled and terraced gardens, which form a beautiful feature of the present residence, in 1570 contained 'a fair pile of brick of four stories high . . . the lower part hath been used for a banquetting-house.'⁵

At the time of the Domesday Survey *MANOR HERSTE* was assessed at 5 hides and was held of the Count of Eu by Wibert; it had been held by Edmer the priest in the time of the

¹ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 266.

² They have circular holes at the bottom of the cross for firearms.

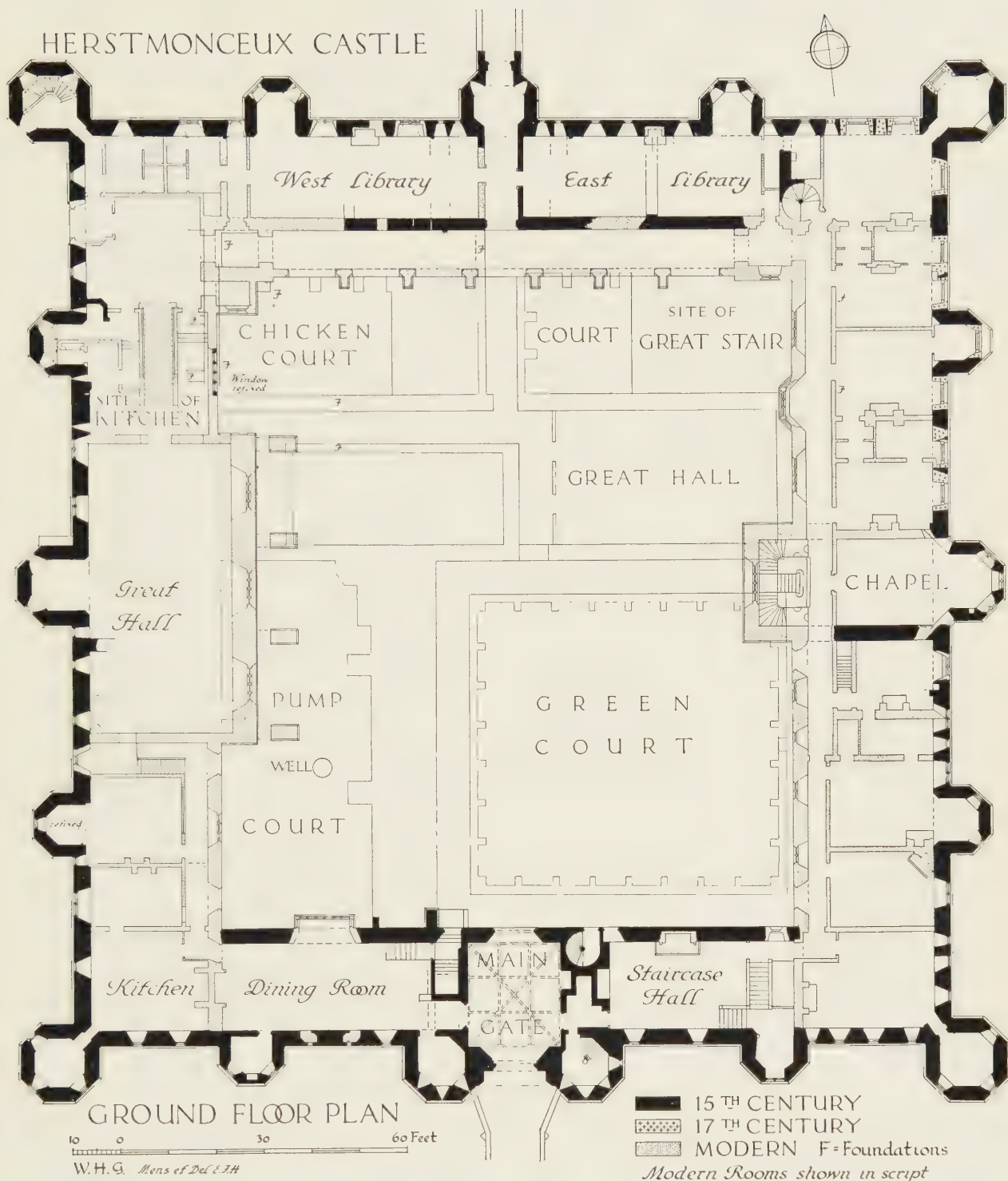
³ Walpole (*loc. cit.*) says: 'The chapel is

small and mean; the Virgin and seven long lean saints, ill done, remain in the windows. There have been four more but seem to have been removed for light; and we actu-

ally found St. Catherine and another gentlewoman with a church in her hand, exiled into the buttery.' ⁴ So called by Walpole.

⁵ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 266.

HERSTMONCEUX CASTLE



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

10 0 30 60 Feet
W.H.G. Mens of Del. E.J.H.

15TH CENTURY
17TH CENTURY
MODERN F=Foundations
Modern Rooms shown in script

Confessor.¹ The overlordship followed the descent of the rape (q.v.).

A century later *HERSTMONCEUX* had come into the possession of the family of de Monceaux or Munceus, who gave it its name, and probably obtained it by marriage with the heiress of the family of de Herste. The first occurrence of the latter surname, in connexion with the manor, is Idonia de Herste, who was living about 1176–80.² Her son Waleran de Herste or Munceus appears in a charter of 1195, and was holding 2½ fees of the Count of Eu in 1210–12, but died before 1217.³ William son of Waleran became Constable of Pevensey Castle, and died in 1243. Custody of his heir and lands was claimed at his death by Thomas de Warblinton, but in the following year was granted to Bernard of Savoy, to hold until the coming of age of Waleran son of William de Munceus.⁴ This Waleran took a prominent part on the side of Simon de Montfort in the Barons' Wars, and in 1264 his lands were for a time committed to John de Warenne.⁵ From Waleran, who died before 1296,⁶ it passed through three successive generations all named John. The third John de Monceaux,⁷ who succeeded in 1316, was the last of that name to hold the estate. Before 1331 it had passed by



MONCEUX. *Argent a bend sable.*



FIENNES. *Azure three lions or.*

the marriage of Maud, his sister and heir, to John de Fiennes.⁸ On his death in 1351⁹ his son William, who had married Joan, daughter and heir of Lord Say, succeeded him. She survived her husband, who died 'in parts beyond the sea' in 1359,¹⁰ and held one third of the estate in dower.¹¹ The remainder of the property was granted to Queen Philippe in custody during the minority of the heir.¹²

The manor then included a capital messuage with garden adjoining, 350 acres of arable land lying in the marsh, an acre being worth 9d., 199 acres of arable land, each acre worth 4d. when sown and when not sown 3d. as pasturage for beasts, and 10 acres of meadow worth only 10s. yearly, because it is often flooded and cannot be mown except in a dry season.¹³

The farm of the manor was granted to Stephen de

Valence,¹⁴ second husband of Joan.¹⁵ John son of William de Fiennes died in 1375,¹⁶ his heir being his brother William, who, having been born on 1 August 1357,¹⁷ was still a minor in ward to the king, but afterwards succeeded to the family estates¹⁸ and held them till his death in 1403, when they passed to his son Roger. Sir Roger accompanied Henry V in his expedition to France and was present at Agincourt, later being made Treasurer of the Household to Henry VI.¹⁹ In 1430 he obtained from Sir John Pelham, lord of the rape, a release from suit of court, castle-guard, and all other services due from Herstmonceux to the honour of Hastings, fealty only excepted.²⁰ This privilege was confirmed five years later by John Colbrond, husband of Pelham's daughter Agnes and kinsman and heir of Sir John Pelham the elder,²¹ and in 1445 by Sir Thomas Hoo, then holder of the rape. In 1441 Roger received license to 'enclose crenellate and furnish with towers and battlements' his manor-house at Herstmonceux and to enlarge his park,²² and the present castle was then erected. He died in November 1449²³ and was succeeded by his son Richard, who married Joan daughter and heir of Thomas Lord Dacre, and their descendants were henceforward known as Lords Dacre of the South.²⁴ He was sheriff of Sussex and Surrey in 1452 and afterwards chamberlain to the queen of Edward IV. His eldest son John predeceased him and his grandson Thomas, then 12 years of age, succeeded in 1483 to the estates and title.²⁵ In 1489 the custody of the manor was granted to Thomas Fiennes and Thomas Oxenbridge, to hold during his minority.²⁶ After receiving many marks of royal favour, Thomas Lord Dacre died 9 September 1533²⁷ and was succeeded by his grandson Thomas Lord Dacre, who was executed in 1541 at the age of 24 for a murder committed in a poaching foray,²⁸ when his honours were forfeited, his estates being saved by the strictness of the entail.²⁹ The custody of his eldest son Thomas was granted in 1550 to the king's uncle Edward Duke of Somerset, and in 1552 to Thomas Lord Darcy,³⁰ but the young Thomas Fiennes died in 1553. His brother Gregory was, however, restored to his honours in 1558,³¹ and his estates were confirmed to him in 1581.³²

In 1571 he had settled the manor on his wife Anne Sackville with remainder to his sister Margaret, who had married Sampson Lennard of Chevening, Kent.³³ He died in 1594 and was buried in Chelsea church, where his



LENNARD. *Or a fesse gules with three fleurs de lis or thereon.*

¹ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 396a.

² Farrer, *Honors and Knights' Fees*, iii, 376–7. Her husband was probably a descendant of Dru de Monceaux, who was living in 1131 and married Edith, daughter of William de Warenne and Gundrada: *Suss. Arch. Coll.* iv, 131. For a pedigree of Fiennes, Dacre, and Lennard see *ibid.* lviii, 64.

³ *Ibid.*; *Red Bk. Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), ii, 554 and 623; *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), 45.

⁴ *Cal. Close*, 1242–7, pp. 128 and 166.

⁵ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* iv, 134; *Cal. Pat.* 1258–66, p. 315.

⁶ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, *Subsidies*, p. 7.

⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iv, 105; *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 405.

⁸ De Banco R. 5 Edw. III, 287, m. 401.

⁹ Chan. Inq. p.m. 25 Edw. III (1st nos.), no. 35. ¹⁰ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, 629.

¹¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. Edw. III (add. nos.), no. 69. ¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* iv, 147.

¹⁴ Mins. Accts. bdl. 1023, no. 17.

¹⁵ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lviii, pedigree.

¹⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. 2 Ric. II, no. 22.

¹⁷ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xii, 38, and lviii, pedigree.

¹⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1381–5, p. 190. He was said then to hold in chief.

¹⁹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* iv, 149. In 1412 Gerard de Fiennes was returned as holding the manor (Subs. R. *Suss. Arch. Coll.* x, 145). Presumably he was a relative who had custody of Roger's lands while he was

in France.

²⁰ Close, 8 Hen. VI, m. 1 d.

²¹ *Ibid.* 13 Hen. VI, m. 4 d.

²² *Cal. Chart. R.* vi, 13.

²³ His will is in Archiep. Reg. Stafford, fol. 178v.

²⁴ G.E.C. *Peerage* (2nd ed.), iv, 8–9.

²⁵ Chan. Inq. p.m. 2 Ric. III, no. 30.

²⁶ *Cal. Pat. Hen. VII*, i, 294.

²⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxxx, 24 and

25.

²⁸ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xvi, 947.

²⁹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* iv, 157, 158.

³⁰ *Cal. Pat. Edw. VI*, iii, 301; *ibid.* iv,

225.

³¹ Act 1 Eliz. cap. 18.

³² Pat. 24 Eliz. pt. 13, m. 4.

³³ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxiv, 29.

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tomb remains. Margaret succeeded to the estate, her claim to the barony being recognized in 1604 by James I.¹ She died in 1612² and her husband then held the estate by grant from the king³ until his death in 1615. His son Henry survived him only one year,⁴ and from him it passed through three successive generations⁵ to Thomas, the last Lord Dacre of this family, who, in consideration of a dowry of £20,000 promised by Charles II, agreed to marry 'Lady Anne Fitzroy' daughter of the Duchess of Cleveland and to settle on her for life all his Sussex estates, including Herstmonceux.⁶ The dower not having been paid by 1692, on petition of Lord Dacre, now by creation of Charles II Earl of Sussex, an act was passed enabling him to sell part of his property for the payment of his debts.⁷ The estate of Herstmonceux was purchased for £38,215 in 1708 by Mr. George Naylor of Lincoln's Inn, who had married Grace daughter of Lord Pelham, and who left it to his nephew Francis Naylor,⁸ son of his sister Bethia, wife of Dr. Francis Hare, Bishop of Chichester. An interesting letter written in 1740 by the bishop to his son helps to explain the subsequent demolition of the castle:—

'The annual expense of the house gardens and park is near one third of the clear produce of the estate whether one live there or not, which is an insupportable grievance. The high price of labour, the dearness of provisions and difficulty of getting them for want of markets, the expectation such a house creates and the number of hangers on with which the kitchen is always full are further grievances. People seem to expect that a man's expense should be measured by the size of his house and not of his estate, which is so absurd that one would think no reasonable man would think in that manner, and yet Mr Lancaster who is otherwise a very honest man is always on that side the question and instead of supporting attempts to lower expenses and particularly to prevent hangers on he always appears to be out of humour at them and yet there is not a more frugal creature in his own house than himself, the meaning of which no doubt is to make himself the idol of his poor neighbours at your expense. If you keep Hurstmonceux you must pull up a spirit to break all this trade at once and let him and others see you resolve to live like a private gentleman and within compass and not to support a ridiculous popularity and the figure of a great house, ruin yourself and be forced to sell an estate which you would be glad to keep.'⁹

On the death of Francis in 1775 the estate passed to his half-brother, the Rev. Robert Hare,¹⁰ the bishop's son by his second marriage, whose second wife Henrietta induced him to demolish the interior of Herstmonceux Castle in order that a modern house, which she could settle upon her own children, could be built of the materials, the castle being strictly entailed.¹¹ Francis Hare-Naylor, his son, sold the estate to Thomas Reed Kemp in 1807¹² and in 1819 it was bought for John Gillon,¹³ who in 1846 sold it to Herbert Barrett Curteis,¹⁴ from whom it passed in direct succession to Herbert Curteis of Windmill Hill Place. In 1911 it was purchased by Colonel Claude Lowther and after his death it was sold in 1929 to Reginald Lawrence

Lawson, esq., and shortly afterwards, in 1932, to Sir Paul Latham, bart., the present owner.

The origin of the *PARK* of Herstmonceux may be found in the grant of free warren made to Waleran de Herst at the beginning of the 13th century and confirmed to his grandson Waleran in 1278.¹⁵ It appears to have been early stocked with game, as in 1334 and again in 1335 certain persons had entered the park of Herstmonceux and carried away deer.¹⁶ In 1264 Henry III visited Herstmonceux on his way from Battle to Lewes, when his men employed themselves in hunting and destroying the park, and a nobleman, Roger de Tournay, was killed.¹⁷ The park was enlarged in 1413, when permission was granted to Sir John Pelham and others to close a road passing through the centre of it,¹⁸ and thirty years later Roger de Fiennes received licence to enlarge it still further by the addition of 600 acres.¹⁹ A survey of 1570 gives an account of the park at that date:—

'The park standeth on the east side of the church, being three miles about, the third part thereof lying in lawns, the residue well set with great timber trees, most of beech, and partly oak, of fair timber. The game of fallow deer in the same park are by estimation two hundred. There are four fair ponds well replenished with carp tenche &c., and four stews besides the mote being dry. There is a hernery in the same park called the Hern-wood, the same hath yielded this year one hundred and fifty nests. There is a fair warren of conies . . . the same game being of late in the keeping of the keeper is now letten to the keeper for the yearly rent of £6 13s. 4d. . . . There is a lodge covered with thack; and a stable very ruinous in timber and covering wherein the keeper now lyeth. . . . There are two highways leading through the park to the church market and townships adjacent.'²⁰

The church of *ALL SAINTS* consists of *CHURCH* chancel, north chapel, nave, north aisle, south aisle, north and south porches, and tower at the west of the north aisle. The nave, aisles, and the south porch are built of stone, covered with plaster both inside and outside. The chancel is built of brick on a stone base and the north chapel, with the exception of the plinth, is built entirely of brick. The tower is of sandstone ashlar. The roofs of the chancel, north chapel, and south porch are covered with tiles. The nave and aisles have one embracing roof, covered with tiles on the south side and slates on the north side; the roof on the north porch is covered with slates.

No vestige remains of the church here mentioned in Domesday. The existing church dates from about 1190, and consisted originally of chancel, nave, north aisle, and north-west tower. The present nave, the tower, and the north arcade are of that date. A south aisle was added about 1230. In the 14th century the chancel appears to have been rebuilt and both the north and south aisles either rebuilt or drastically remodelled. A north chapel and the south porch were added at this time. About 1440 a new chapel, the Dacre chapel, was built at the north-east, the east end of the older chapel being taken down, and the east wall of the chancel was rebuilt about the same time. In 1721 a

¹ G.E.C. *Peerage* (2nd ed.), iv, 11–12.

² Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxviii, 111.

³ Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 9 Jas. I.

⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccclix, 140.

⁵ Ibid. ccclxi, 85.

⁶ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv, App. vi, 319.

⁷ Ibid.; Recov. R. East. 7 Anne, rot. 51.

⁸ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* iv, 162; Recov. R.

Hil. 16 Geo. II, rot. 137.

⁹ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv, App. ix.

¹⁰ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 562; *Suss. Arch.*

Coll. iv, 162, 165.

¹¹ *Dict. Nat. Biog.* xxiv, 374.

¹² Recov. R. Trin. 41 Geo. III, rot. 160.

¹³ Feet of P. Suss. Trin. 59 Geo. III.

¹⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* iv, 165.

¹⁵ *Plac. Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 757.

¹⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1334–8, p. 70; *ibid.* 1338–40, p. 557.

¹⁷ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* iv, 134.

¹⁸ Inq. a. q. d. file 445, no. 9.

¹⁹ Chart. R. 19 Hen. VI, no. 20.

²⁰ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 266. It is printed in full in Parry's *Coast of Sussex*, 246.

north porch of open timberwork was built, but this porch was replaced by the existing stone structure in 1874. The church has been restored at various periods.

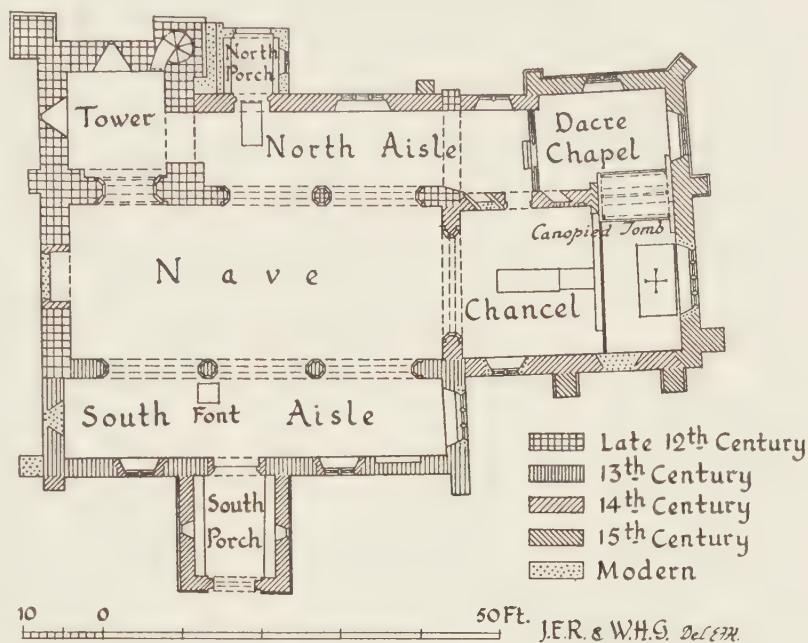
The chancel has a modern east window of four lights in a pointed head. The brickwork of the east wall stands upon a stone base about 3 ft. 6 in. high, representing the older work. The east end of the north wall is occupied by the Dacre tomb, which projects either side of the wall. Immediately to the west of the tomb is a trefoiled niche of 14th-century date with moulded label, which was possibly the piscina from the south wall, rebuilt here during some later reconstruction. The sill is modern. In the western portion of the wall are two squints, blocked on the side towards the chancel but appearing as recesses with pointed heads on the other side. Between them is a pointed doorway with moulded edges, of 14th-century date, opening outwards into what was no doubt a chapel of this period, curtailed when the Dacre chapel was built. The south wall is plastered externally and divided into two bays by a buttress. The window in the first bay is blocked. In the second bay there is a modern two-light window with a square head. The chancel arch is pointed, of two chamfered orders, and springs from semi-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases, all much repaired. The chancel roof has been lowered, as can be seen by the old weather-course on the east gable of the nave outside. The existing roof is ceiled inside with modern matchboarding.

The north chapel is lighted on the east by a window of three lights with modern tracery, and on the north by an original window of two trefoiled lights in a square head. It has a flat plastered ceiling. Outside a moulded plinth is carried all round the walls.

On the south-east of the chapel is the great canopied monument reputed to be to Thomas Dacre, died 1533, and his son Thomas.¹ There are indications that it was not all built at the same time. The monument is of Caen stone and has a table tomb, decorated on the north and south sides with large quatrefoil panels with double cusping, standing on a moulded base. Upon the tomb lie the effigies of two men in sleeveless tabards, and armour of about 1480. They both wear the Lancaster collar of SS. Their hands are in attitude of prayer, their heads are bare and rest upon helmets, and at their feet are animals, much defaced. The arms on the tabard of the effigy on the north side are quarterly Hoo and St. Omer, on a shield of pretence St. Leger. On the effigy on the south side, quarterly 1 & 4 Hoo, 2 & 3 unknown, and in pretence St. Omer. These seem to be the effigies of Thomas Lord Hoo, and Thomas Hoo, his half-brother, probably brought from Battle Abbey at the Dissolution and perhaps used for Lord Dacre and his

son by the economical executors.² Over the effigies and rising from the ends of the monument is a vaulted canopy having cinquefoiled arches with traceried spandrels at the sides and rich panelling divided by a central rib underneath. Above the arch on either side is a frieze of quatrefoils containing six shields: on the north side for Oddingsells, de Warene, Oddingsells, Grey, Fitzhugh, and Merley: on the south side for Ufford, Grey, Oddingsells, Mandeville, Marmion, and

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Multon. Above the frieze on the chancel side there is a richly decorated cornice and cresting on which are displayed in high relief three shields with mantling and crests. The central shield bears the arms and eagle crest of Fiennes. The other shields are blank and the crest above each of them is a gryphon, for Hoo. All the crests as well as the lions on the Fiennes shield face sinister-wise, that being the side towards the altar. Returned against the east wall on both the chancel and chantry sides are elaborately carved canopied niches, now empty. The panelling of the table tomb is returned below them. The panels contain shields, that on the north for Filliol, and that on the south for Fiennes. At the west end are two tiers of smaller niches. This monument has been restored on the south side and the shields on the frieze repainted, it is said erroneously, but the north side remains untouched.

Only the western portion of the north wall of the older chapel remains. In this is a window of two trefoiled lights with tracery in a square head, similar to that in the north wall of the Dacre chapel, but with mouldings of an earlier character. Cut in the wall near the doorway on the south of the chapel is a very small and shallow trefoiled niche 7 in. high and 4½ in. wide, the purpose of which is obscure.

The nave has on the north an arcade of two arches and, west of the arcade, an arch to the tower. All the arches are acutely pointed and of two chamfered orders. The arcade rests upon an octagonal pillar and semi-

¹ See *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lviii, 35-56.

² *Ibid.* 51, 55.

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octagonal responds with deep moulded capitals and moulded bases. The capitals of the responds are carved with heavy palm-leaf ornament and their moulded abaci as well as the capitals themselves are octagonal.¹ The capital of the pillar is carved in a similar heavy manner, one great trefoiled ornament occupying each side of the octagon. Here as the ornament rises the octagonal dies into circular form and the abacus itself is round. The base of the pillar has been restored. The arch to the tower has semi-octagonal responds and springs from moulded imposts which are continued along the faces of the responds and cut off flush with the wall on either side. The moulded bases are much broken. On the south of the nave is an arcade of three acutely pointed arches with octagonal pillars and responds. This arcade shows considerable development in design from that on the north and is of the early 13th century. While the capitals on the north are of sandstone these are of Caen stone and are octagonal in form throughout their height. They are finely carved with a band of upright stalks rising out of the neck-ring and bursting into foliage below the moulded abaci. The capital of the west respond is moulded but not carved. The east respond has been repaired with cement, as have all the bases. At the west end of the nave there is a blocked pointed doorway, and above it a pointed window of three lights, modern externally but set in internal jambs and head of the 14th century. The doorway also is of this date and preserves on the outside a moulded label with curled stops. At the eastern bay of the nave on either side is a large dormer window, inserted about 1850. The nave has a medieval trussed roof with exposed tie-beams, king-posts, and struts. The rafters are ceiled in with lath and plaster and are continued down to form lean-to roofs over the aisles.

The north aisle is lighted by a window in the north wall of three trefoiled lights in a square head of 14th-century date. To the west of the window there is a pointed doorway similar to that in the north wall of the chancel. The west end of the aisle is spanned by a pointed arch to the tower, with a single hollow-chamfered moulding on the outer edge which dies into the wall above the imposts. The imposts are formed of a single member, square on the upper edge and hollow-chamfered below. Above the arch can be seen the weather-course of the original aisle roof. Before the remodelling of the aisle there was probably a wall at the east end in line with the chancel arch, and a small buttress-like projection in the north wall outside at this point, which dies into the wall about 5 ft. above the ground, is probably a part of the early work, showing that the aisle was not rebuilt entirely.

The south aisle has an east window of three lights with modern tracery, and on the south two windows, each of two trefoiled lights in a square head. The easternmost is of 14th-century date but the other is a reconstruction. From a drawing of 1805 it appears that there was then a window of two lights in the west wall also, but no trace of this window is now visible. The south doorway with a pointed head of two moulded orders dates from the 14th century. At the east end of the south wall there is a wide early-14th-century tomb recess with a low pointed arch, enriched by cusps the points of which have rounded terminals. At the back of the recess is a small indecipherable shield.² The portion of the recess below the arch is hidden behind wood

dadoing, but built into the wall on the west side of the recess is a small moulded capital which doubtless was removed from the jambs.

The south porch has an outer doorway with a pointed head and jambs moulded with two continuous chamfered orders falling upon stops at the base. The jambs were shortened and the doorway consequently thrown out of proportion when the porch was restored in 1910. There is a small pointed light on either side of the porch and another small light above the doorway.

The tower is of two stages without external division and carries a timber shingled spire. Its buttresses at the west terminate much short of its full height, and it has a turret stairway at the north-east. The lower stage is lighted on each of the north and west sides by a tall narrow light with a square head externally and an arch and deep splays on the inside. On each of the north, east, and west faces of the bell-chamber is a group of three tall pointed recesses about 9 in. deep, the central one of which is pierced by a narrow louvred opening. On the south side, largely covered by the roof of the nave, the outside face of the tower is plain, but on the inside are two blind arched recesses.

The font dates from the early part of the 14th century. It is of light-coloured sandstone and has a square bowl supported on a circular stem and four octagonal corner-shafts, with moulded capitals and bases, the whole standing on a square base. On the floor at the west of the north aisle lies the fragment of another font. This is of brown sandstone and consists of two sides of a square bowl carved on the sides with shallow trefoil-headed panels and cusped tracery. It was found on a farm to the north of the church many years ago and after doing service as a garden vase at Lime was brought to this church about twenty years ago. It is of 14th-century date. At the west end of the north chapel is a wood screen from the floor to the ceiling, consisting of a framework in oak of the late 15th century and modern repairs in deal. The upper panels are glazed. The north window of the chapel contains remnants of 15th-century glass including the emblems of two of the Evangelists. In the chapel, now used as a vestry, are a panelled oak chest of about 1580 and a 17th-century oak table with baluster legs. On the floor of the chancel is a fine brass to Sir William Fiennes, died 1402/3. His effigy in pointed bascinet, camail, mail shirt, and armour of the period lies under a cinquefoiled canopy with tracery and crocketed finial. He wears a sword, the hilt of which is missing, and a misericorde. There are matrices for four shields and a marginal inscription from which the word *Seigneur* and the prayer for his soul are missing. It reads: WILLIAM FIENZLEZ CHIVALEY QY MORUST LE XVIII JOUR DE JANEVER L'AN DEL INCARNACON N'RE . . . IHEU CRYST MILL. CCCCJ GIST YCY QY PUR SA ALME DEVOSTEMENT PATER NOSTER & AVE PRIERA VI^{xx} JOURS DE PARDON ENAVERA.

On the floor of the old north chapel there is a medieval stone coffin lid. It has moulded edges and a cross in relief on the top. On the floor immediately inside the north door of the north aisle a large slab of Sussex marble doubtless marks the resting-place of the rector, John Pencell, who directed in his will, dated 1485, that his body should be buried within the north door of the church.

There is only one bell, which is by William Hull, 1684.³ Before 1807 there were three bells, but two of

¹ This arcade has a striking resemblance to that in Battle parish church.

² Mosse, *Mon. Effigies*, 103; there are on the shield traces of a bend, the arms of

the Monceux family.

³ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 214.

them were then sold to pay the expenses of repairs to the roof, which had been damaged by a hurricane.

The plate consists of a cup, two patens on feet, a flat plate, and a flagon, all of silver and of 1715, given by George Naylor, and, with the exception of the flat plate, all bear the inscription: *Ex dono Georgii Naylor Arm. in usum ecclesiae Parochialis de Herstmonceux in com. Sussex.* There are also two Sheffield-plated plates.¹

The register begins in 1538.

The description of Herstmonceux ADVOWSON in 1086 included a church,² which in 1291 was rated at £20.³ At this date a vicarage, worth £6 13s. 4d., is recorded, but no other reference to such a vicarage can be found. In the Valor of 1535 it is called a rectory, its value being given as £20.⁴ No mention of the advowson is found until 1287, when John de Monceux presented William de Monceux.⁵ In 1304 it was held jointly by John de Monceux and Olympia his wife.⁶ The advowson followed the descent of the manor⁷ until 1807, when on

the sale of Herstmonceux to Thomas Reed Kemp the advowson was retained by the Naylor family and held by them until 1855, when it was sold to John Jones, who in 1862 sold it to William Wild.⁸ From him it has descended to Bishop H. L. Wild, D.D., the present patron.

Thomas Lord Dacre, who died in 1533, directed in his will that an honest secular priest, 'being an englishman borne', should sing for his soul for seven years after his death, taking 12 marks annually for his salary and to find bread, wine, and wax.⁹

The Congregational Chapel, Burial CHARITIES Ground and Trust Property, comprised in an indenture of 28 January 1823, a declaration of trust of 22 August 1837, and an enfranchisement deed of 31 January 1923, is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners, dated 11 September 1923, which directs that the charity be administered by the Sussex Congregational Union [Incorporated].

WARTLING

Werlinges (xi cent.); Wertelyng (xiii cent.); Wrytelyng (xiv cent.); Wortlynge (xv cent.).

The parish of Wartling, including Boreham Street and part of Windmill Hill, contains 3,287 acres of land of which 6 only are covered with water. It is situated about 4 miles north of Pevensey station. The village is in the extreme south of the parish, and when approached from Pevensey it is entered by a steep shady hill, above which stands the church, with the vicarage and school to the north. From the Lamb Inn a road runs east to Hooe, while another passes north-east to Boreham Street, a hamlet 1½ miles from Wartling on the road from Battle to Lewes. Much of the parish consists of pasture. Agriculture has been the occupation of the inhabitants from an early date, but the land often suffered severely from the floods of the Ashburn and other streams. In 1342 mention is made of the loss of 200 acres of land in Wartling 'formerly cultivated, now submerged by floods and sediment',¹⁰ and the next year orders were given to inquire through whose default the drains had become obstructed and to compel them to contribute to the cost of repair.¹¹ The surface soil is loam on a subsoil of sand. The woodland mainly consists of Wartling and Cowden Woods. Windmill Hill Place, built by the architect Willey Reveby about 1790 on the site of an early seat of the Lunsfords,¹² and for over a century occupied by the Curteis family, is now the residence of Mrs. Murray. On the western border of the parish is Comphurst, a fine brick Tudor house.

The house now used as the post office at Wartling on the hill is an oak-framed building of c. 1600, on the lines of a mediæval hall house, but the massive floors and the central chimney of brick appear to be original features, especially as the ridge of the roof is on a slightly different level each side of the chimney. This is of the usual type, marked by a string-course of brick

just above the roof and crowned by a heavy cornice. Some of the Horsham slabs remain on the roof, but most have been replaced by tiles. The interior is plastered and the outside walls have been covered with clapboards, but a few of the old leaded windows remain. There is a lower addition, clap-boarded and tiled on the eastern side.

White Friars Hotel, formerly Montague House,¹³ in Boreham Street, retains in its north-east corner a very large early-16th-century chimney, the lower portion built of stone and the upper of thin bricks with crowstepping. The rest of the house is a charming example of early-18th-century brickwork. The east or garden front is of two stories, divided by a brick string-course, and attics in the tiled roof above, with flat arches over the lower windows. Over the door is the date 1721 with the initials ^B_M and a sundial, and the arms of Benbridge.¹⁴ The interior has excellent panelling with the bold bolelection mouldings of the period, notably in the fine dining-room, in the north-west corner, which has a simple plaster ceiling displaying large and small circles with rosettes. A large Palladian window, almost the only 18th-century part in stone, has Ionic pilasters, the central light round-headed and the side ones square. The brick garden wall has a terra-cotta coping.

In 1886, by Order of the Local Government Board, a part of the parish was incorporated with that of Herstmonceux.

WARTLING, which had been held MANORS under the Confessor by Alnod, was included in the lands of Robert Count of Eu and the overlordship followed the descent of the rape (q.v.). In 1086 it was held by William (de St. Leger), and assessed, as before, at 5 hides, of which Girard was holding 1 hide, Ralf 1 hide, and Wennenc the priest 2 virgates.¹⁵

¹ Ibid. lv, 154.

² V.C.H. Suss. i, 396a.

³ Pope Nich. Tax (Rec. Com.), 137b.

⁴ Valor Eccles. (Rec. Com.), 343.

⁵ Suss. Arch. Coll. lviii, pedigree; Reg. J. Peckham (Rolls Ser.), iii, 1047.

⁶ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 32 Edw. I, no. 34.

⁷ During the minority of Francis Lord

Dacre (1630-9) the Crown presented: Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.); Cal. S.P. Dom. 1637-8, p. 288.

⁸ Add. MS. 39469, fol. 166.

⁹ Suss. Arch. Coll. lviii, 52.

¹⁰ Inq. Non. (Rec. Com.), 60.

¹¹ Cal. Pat. 1343-5, p. 85.

¹² Horsfield, Hist. of Suss. i, 546.

¹³ Ex inf. W. H. Godfrey, F.S.A., who

calls attention to the fact that Henry Mountague, clerk, and Mary his wife were dealing with land in this district in 1669: Suss. Rec. Soc. xx, 311.

¹⁴ Identified by Mr. Godfrey. John Benbrigg of 'Boram' married Mary Creed in 1688: Chester's London Marriage Licences, 114.

¹⁵ V.C.H. Suss. i, 396a.

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William de St. Leger's heir was Clarembald¹ and after him Wartling passed, like Cortesley (q.v.), to Reynold de St. Leger and Geoffrey his son and was evidently included in the 4 fees held by Thomas de St. Leger in 1166.² The latter's son John forfeited some of his lands in the rape in January 1205 for having granted them without leave to Biset de St. Leger,³ but he seems to have died shortly afterwards as the lands were returned in June of that year to his son Geoffrey,⁴ who was holding 5½ fees in about 1210.⁵ Geoffrey, however, seems already to have been holding in Wartling and Dallington as early as 1200.⁶ His widow Joan and son William were sued in 1239 for these manors by another Geoffrey de St. Leger, who, however, gave up his claim,⁷ and William's right was confirmed in 1244.⁸ By 1265 he had been succeeded by Geoffrey, presumably his son, who in that year received a grant of free warren in his demesne lands of Wartling.⁹ This grant was confirmed in 1301 to his son John, who succeeded before 1296, and his wife Isabel,¹⁰ who with her second husband, Giles de Brianson, was holding the manor in 1312.¹¹ Giles was holding it in 1320 and 1327,¹² but was succeeded by John de St. Leger, son of John and Isabel, who on his death in 1326 left as heir a daughter Isabel, born at Holcote (Northants.) and then aged 7.¹³ Her wardship fell to Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, of whom John held the manor of Offley (Herts.),¹⁴ and he demised it to Richard St. Leger, John's brother.¹⁵ In 1325 she married Sir Thomas Hoo, who in 1337 obtained a grant of a yearly fair, on the vigil, feast, and morrow of St. Mary Magdalene, and a weekly market on Tuesdays in his manor of Wartling.¹⁶ He was still holding it in 1343,¹⁷ but was succeeded in 1380 by his eldest son John, who handed over the manor to his brother William in 1396.¹⁸ Sir William died in 1410,¹⁹ and his widow Lady de Hoo appears in 1411 as owner of the manor, then worth £60.²⁰ After her death it appears to have passed to her son Sir Thomas Hoo, who died in 1420, and who married first Eleanor daughter of Thomas Felton of co. Huntingdon, and second Elizabeth daughter of William de Echingham, who married as her second husband Sir Thomas Lewknor.²¹ Sir Thomas Hoo left the estate to his son (by his first wife) Thomas, created Lord Hoo and Hastings in 1447, who shortly afterwards granted it to his stepmother, Lady Lewknor, who was holding



ST. LEGER. *Azure fretty argent a chief or.*

Wartling in 1428.²² Thomas Lord Hoo died in 1455, leaving the manor to Lady Lewknor for life and then to his second wife Eleanor.²³ He left as co-heirs a daughter Anne by his first wife, aged 30, and three daughters by his second wife, Anne, Eleanor, and Elizabeth, aged respectively 7, 5, and 4 years.²⁴ In the division of estates made after the death of Eleanor Lady Hoo, the manor of Wartling was allotted in 1475 to Eleanor, who had married secondly Sir James Carew, with remainder to her sisters Anne Bolyn, Anne Copley, and Elizabeth Massingberd,²⁵ whose second husband was John Devenish. Thomas Hoo, the half-brother of Lord Hoo, however, held courts there in 1478–9. In 1499 a partition of the property was made between Sir Richard Carew and Sir John Devenish and Richard his son, heirs respectively of Eleanor and Elizabeth,²⁶ and in 1520 they obtained confirmation of the market and fair.²⁷ Lady Maline Carew, widow of Sir Richard, held Wartling for life after the death of her husband, and on the attainder of her son Sir Nicholas Carew²⁸ for conspiring to effect a rising in the western counties, the reversion was granted in 1543 to James Gage,²⁹ the great-grandson of Margaret, daughter of Sir William Hoo. James Gage died in 1573 leaving Wartling, then held of the Crown in chief and worth £16 3s., to his eldest son Edward,³⁰ who with his son Edward conveyed it in 1606 to Thomas Sackville, Earl of Dorset.³¹ His grandson appears to have sold the estate to Sir William Craven, afterwards Lord Craven, an active royalist whose estates were confiscated in 1651,³² and in the following year the manor was purchased by the regicide William Crawley.³³ Lord Craven received his discharge from sequestration in 1653 and the manor of Wartling remained in the family until it was sold by William Lord Craven shortly after 1769 to John Earl of Ashburnham,³⁴ whose descendants have held it till the present day.

COWDEN [Kudenn (xiii cent.); Coudenne (xiv cent.)] seems early to have formed part of the possessions of the St. Leger family. The 5½ fees in Wartling held in 1210–12 by Geoffrey de St. Leger, and later by his son William, are described in 1320 as 5 fees in Wartling, Cowden, and Soknersh.³⁵ The lordship of Cowden descended with the manor of Wartling until at least 1343, when Thomas Hoo was holding it.³⁶ John de Kudenn, who appears in the Subsidy Rolls of 1296, and his widow in 1332, may perhaps have been subtenants.³⁷ About this time Stephen de Coudenne gave 120 acres in Wartling, including land at 'le Havene' in Bulverhythe and probably representing this manor, to John de Coudenne and Joan his wife; their daughter Isabel married John de Peplesham, and his son Simon

¹ *Chron. of Battle Abbey* (ed. Lower), 60; *Thorpe, Battle Abbey Chs.* 42.

² *Red Bk. of Exch.* i, 202.

³ *Rot. Lit. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), i, 17.

⁴ *Ibid.* 40. ⁵ *Red Bk. of Exch.* ii, 554.

⁶ *Curia Regis R.* i, 193; ii, 19.

⁷ *Ibid.* 120, m. 16; *Feet of F.* (Suss. Rec. Soc.), no. 354.

⁸ *Cal. Chart. R.* i, 279.

⁹ *Ibid.* iii, 54.

¹⁰ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, 8; *Cal. Pat.* 1388–92, p. 403; *Chart. R.* 30 Edw. I, no. 95.

¹¹ *Add. Chart.* 32618.

¹² *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, no. 405; *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x (Subsidies), p. 208.

¹³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vii, no. 664.

¹⁴ *V.C.H. Herts.* iii, 40.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* Richard's name appears in the subsidy of 1332: *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, 319.

¹⁶ *Chart. R.* 11 Edw. III, m. 5, no. 8.

¹⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, 232; *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 1858. ¹⁸ *Cal. Close*, 1396–9, p. 52.

¹⁹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* viii, 104.

²⁰ *Lay Subs. R.* file 169, no. 53.

²¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* viii, 131.

²² *Feud. Aids*, v, 149.

²³ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* viii, 119–21.

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ *Add. Chart.* 23825. Yet in 1480 a court was held by Richard Lewknor and a number of others: *Add. Chart.* 31315.

²⁶ *Add. Chart.* 23828.

²⁷ Horsfield, *History of Sussex*, 548 note.

²⁸ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xviii (1), 542.

²⁹ *Ibid.*; *Rot. Orig.* 35 Hen. VIII, pt. 5, rot. 4. An alleged manor of Wartling sold in 1560 by William Devenish to Anthony Pelham seems to have been part of the

manor of Dallington: *Feet of F. Suss. East.*

2 Eliz.; *Mem. R.* 4 Eliz. Trin. rot. 26.

³⁰ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), clxv, 178.

³¹ *Feet of F. Suss. East.* 4 Jas. I.

³² *Cal. of Com. for Compounding*, 1617.

³³ *Ibid.* 1624.

³⁴ *Recov. R.* Trin. 9 Geo. III, 1769, rot. 261; *Add. MS.* 5780, fol. 426. A letter written in 1740 by Francis Hare, Bishop of Chichester, to his son Francis Naylor of Herstmonceux, shows that the estate was already in the market: *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv (9), 257.

³⁵ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, no. 405; *Red Bk. Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), ii, 554; *Bk. of Fees*, 691.

³⁶ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, no. 1858. John St. Leger 'of Coudenne' is mentioned in 1328: *Cat. Anc. Deeds*, C. 3378.

³⁷ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, 8 and 319.

had a daughter Isabel who carried the estate in marriage to Stephen Playsted before 1384.¹ Ralph Playsted was holding the manor of Cowden as of the manor of Wartling in 1468,² and in 1519 Robert Playsted,³ who inherited Cowden at the death of his brother Richard, sold it to Thomas Kytson,⁴ who in 1527 conveyed it to Robert Palmer.⁵ He settled it for life upon Blanche his wife, widow of Richard Reynolds.⁶ He died in the following year⁷ and his son Thomas in 1549 sold the reversion to Sir Nicholas Pelham together with a 21-years lease which he then held from his mother,⁸ who had married as her third husband Sir William Forman.⁹ Blanche, however, survived Sir Nicholas Pelham, who died in 1560, leaving to his wife Dame Anne the reversion of his manor of Cowden for life 'on condition that she do find and bring up Thomas Pelham my second son in virtue and learning' until he was 18 and then to pay him £20 yearly out of the said manor.¹⁰ Sir Nicholas was succeeded by his son John, who died in 1580. Two years before his death John had conveyed Cowden to his brother Sir Thomas Pelham, bart.,¹¹ who died in 1624 having settled the manor on his son Thomas on his marriage with Mary, daughter of Sir Roger Wilbraham.¹² On the death of Thomas in 1654 it passed in succession to Sir John Pelham and to Thomas Lord Pelham, his son and grandson respectively.¹³ The latter died in 1711-12 and his son Thomas, afterwards Duke of Newcastle,¹⁴ dying without issue in 1768, left Cowden among other estates to the four daughters of his brother Henry—Catherine, married to Henry Earl of Lincoln, Grace, married to Lewis Lord Sondes, Frances and Mary unmarried. In 1763 Grace's share, and before 1812 the remainder of the manor, was acquired by John Earl of Ashburnham;¹⁵ the Countess of Ashburnham is the present owner.

OLD COURT is first mentioned as a manor about the middle of the 13th century, when it was given as a marriage portion by Aylmer de Chaunceux to his sister Cecily and her husband William Filliol.¹⁶ Sybil, daughter and heir of William Filliol, married Giles de Fiennes, who in 1290 obtained a grant of free warren in his manor of 'Veillecourt'.¹⁷ He and his wife Sybil granted the reversion of the manor to William de Echingham in 1314,¹⁸ who transferred it to Nicholas de la Beche and Joan his wife.¹⁹ Nicholas obtained a fresh grant of free warren in 1318,²⁰ although Sybil was still in possession, and in 1322 was holding the manor of William de Echingham.²¹ For some reason Nicholas forfeited his lands in 1324 and the manor of Oldcourt was committed to the keeping of Henry de Montfort,²² but in December 1326 it was restored to him.²³ In or

before 1337 he married Margery, widow of Edmund Bacoun (and probably sister of Michael de Ponynghes).²⁴ Nicholas died 'in parts beyond the sea', being Seneschal of Gascony, in 1345.²⁵ In the following year John de Fiennes, grandson of Sybil and Giles, claimed the manor,²⁶ but it remained in the possession of Margery, widow of Nicholas de la Beche, although she was obliged to sell all the stock belonging to it to Andrew de Sackville, in payment of her husband's debts.²⁷ In 1347 she was violently abducted in a sensational manner from the manor of Beaumoys (on the borders of Berks. and Wilts.) by Sir John Dalton, whom she subsequently married, thereby forfeiting her lands.²⁸ At her death in October 1349 Oldcourt passed to John de Langeford, husband of Isabel, daughter of Nicholas's brother John.²⁹ The manor was then held of Margaret de Chulme-stride for 12s. yearly rent, 9s. rent being also paid to the Prior of Michelham, and 6s. to Robert Pechard. In 1360 it was held of Thomas Langeford by William de Fiennes, and in 1375 by William's son John.³⁰ After that the manor follows the descent of Herstmonceux (q.v.).³¹ It is last mentioned in 1790.³² The old house is said to have stood on a spot called Mota Piece,³³ at the edge of the marsh, near the foot of Wartling Hill.

The manor of ROCKLAND may have been included in the manor of Hooe when that manor was granted by Henry Count of Eu to the abbey of St. Martin de Bosco.³⁴ About 1200 Robert de Turneham granted to his newly founded abbey of Bayham 'all the land which he held at Rokeland of the monks of St. Martin de Bosco' subject to a yearly quitrent of 5s.³⁵ This gift was confirmed by King John as 'the whole vill of Rokeland'.³⁶ In 1226 the canons were granted a weekly market there on Thursdays and an annual fair on the vigil, feast, and morrow of St. John the Baptist.³⁷ A hundred years later this privilege, which had not been used by the abbot, was confirmed by Edward II.³⁸ The abbot also received a grant of free warren in his demesne lands in Rockland in 1328.³⁹

Bayham Abbey was dissolved in May 1525⁴⁰ and in the following year the manor of Rockland, then worth £19, was granted to Wolsey,⁴¹ who immediately bestowed it upon Cardinal College (afterwards Christ Church), Oxford.⁴² Three years later the college leased the manor to George Jenour for 21 years.⁴³ They, however, undertook to support 'all charges for cleansing the common sewer in Pannemersshe, Waterhousemersshe, and Rokelandmersshe, and all gutters belonging to the said lordship and the sewers leading from the great gutters in Rokelandmersshe to the haven of Hoo called Hoo Haven, and other expenses'.⁴⁴ On the fall of

¹ Add. MS. 39375, fols. 42, 53.

² Add. MS. 5679, fol. 122. The name is written 'Cobden' in error.

³ See *Visit. Suss.* (Harl. Soc.), 139.

⁴ Add. Chart. 23829. Thomas Playsted of Wartling and Richard Playsted of Bexhill are mentioned in 1445: *Cal. Pat.* 1441-6, p. 383. ⁵ Add. Chart. 30185.

⁶ Close, 35 Hen. VIII, pt. 3, no. 27.

⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxx, no. 40.

⁸ Com. Pleas Deeds Enr. Hil. 3 & 4 Edw. VI, m. 13. ⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxxxi, 169.

¹¹ Add. Chart. 30188.

¹² Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccccxvii, 4.

¹³ Feet of F. Suss. East. 2 Jas. II.

¹⁴ Ibid. East. 15 Geo. II.

¹⁵ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 113; *Recov. R. East.* 53 Geo. III, rot. 17.

¹⁶ Wrottesley, *Ped. from Plea R.* 53. The

Chanceuxs and the Filliols were both Essex families.

¹⁷ *Cal. Chart. R.* 1251-1300, p. 345.

¹⁸ *Feet of F.* (Suss. Rec. Soc.), no. 1394.

¹⁹ Ibid. no. 1568.

²⁰ *Cal. Chart. R.* 1300-26, p. 392.

²¹ De Banco R. 243, m. 75.

²² *Cal. Fine R.* iii, 281. Next year Montfort was ordered to pay the rent of 9s. due from the manor to the Prior of Michelham for 80 acres of land: *Cal. Close*, 1323-7, p. 396. ²³ Ibid. 622.

²⁴ *Cal. Close*, 1337-9, p. 260.

²⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, 415.

²⁶ Wrottesley, *Ped. from Plea R.* 53.

²⁷ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, no. 2059.

²⁸ *V.C.H. Berks.* iii, 270; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxii, 12-17.

²⁹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 235; Wrottesley, op. cit. 293-4.

³⁰ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, 629; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 2 Rich. II, no. 22.

³¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* x, 145.

³² Add. MS. 5680, fol. 134.

³³ Only the moated site without edifices remained in 1570: Add. MS. 5780, fol. 53. Cf. Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 547.

³⁴ See p. 244. Rockland is situated in the extreme west of the parish of Wartling adjoining that of Hooe.

³⁵ Dugdale, *Mon.* vi, 912. ³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Close, 10 Hen. III, m. 13.

³⁸ Chart. R. 19 Edw. II, last m.

³⁹ Ibid. 2 Edw. III, m. 1.

⁴⁰ *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 88.

⁴¹ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, iv, g. 1913 (2); Pat. 17 Hen. VIII, pt. 1, m. 19.

⁴² Feet of F. Div. Co. Mich. 18 Hen. VIII. ⁴³ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, v, g. 80 (5).

⁴⁴ Ibid.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

Wolsey in 1530 the manor came to the Crown and, with the rent of £19 during the remainder of Jenour's lease, was granted to Sir John Gage of Firle,¹ vice-chamberlain to the king, whose second son, James, was in possession in 1541.² From this date it follows the descent of Wartling (q.v.), the Countess of Ashburnham being the present lady of the manor.

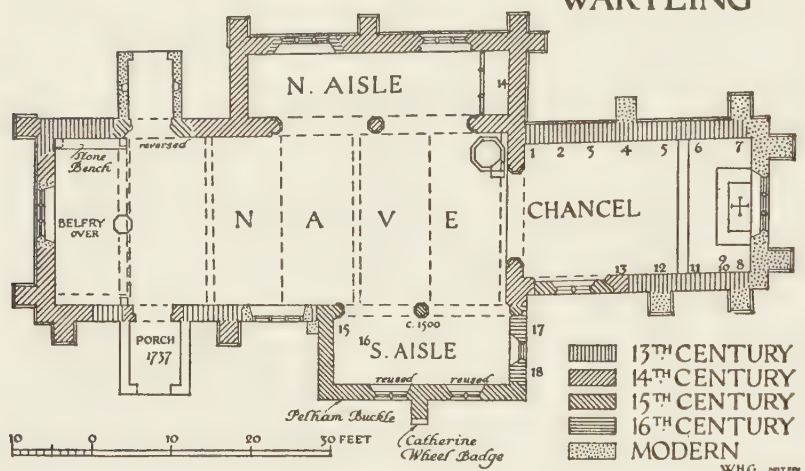
BOREHAM was also acquired by the abbey of Bayham. It is first mentioned as a manor about 1472, when, with Rockland, it had been leased by the abbot to

the north aisle was added. The timber bell-turret was also probably built at this period. Early in the 15th century the south aisle was added, but in the 16th century the chapel was destroyed, the arch to the chancel blocked, and the present east wall of the aisle built. The north porch and all the roofs, except some timbers in the roof of the north aisle, are modern.

The chancel has been repaired in brickwork in modern times: the east gable has been rebuilt and buttresses added to all the walls. The east window is

modern. There are no windows visible in the north wall: if any exist they are blocked by late mural monuments. The only window in the south wall is one of two cinquefoiled lights in a square head in the blocking of an arch at the west end of the wall. This arch is a pointed drop arch, of two hollow-chamfered orders which die into plain responds. In its construction the west jamb of an earlier pointed doorway has been cut away: the outline of this doorway can be seen on the outside. The window is of 15th-century date, rebuilt probably from the chapel when the arch was blocked. The chancel arch is pointed and of two chamfered orders

The PARISH CHURCH of ST. MARY MAGDALENE WARTLING



William Lemyng on the understanding that the latter should discharge the abbot's debts.³ From this time it follows the descent of Rockland, being often described as the manor of Boreham Rockland.⁴

The tithes of Boreham were given in the 12th century to St. Mary's, Hastings, by Reinbert the sheriff, and confirmed to it by the Count of Eu, as part of the endowment of the prebend of Eustace; but this prebend was subsequently transferred by Henry Count of Eu to Robertsbridge Abbey.⁵ There was once a chapel there, but no record survives of its foundation. In 1531 Thomas Lord Dacre left money for repair of the road between the chapel and the bridge of Boreham.⁶ The Commission of 1574 reported on 'a cottage lately a stone chapel, now destroyed', worth 4d. a year.⁷

The manor-house, said to have been erected in the 16th or 17th century, was occupied by the Colbrand family, baronets, from 1621 to 1709, but fell into decay, and in 1835 was inhabited by labourers.⁸

The church of ST. MARY MAGDALENE consists of a chancel, nave, with timber bell-turret over the west bay, north and south aisles, north porch, and south porch. All are built of stone, except that the south porch is of brick and the chancel is repaired with brickwork. The roof of the south aisle is covered with slates, the other roofs with tiles.

The chancel and the nave were probably built in the 13th century, but no detail of that period survives. In the 14th century a chapel was built on the south side of the chancel, when an older priest's doorway was blocked for its east wall; and late in the same century

rising from semi-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases; it dates from about 1400.

The nave has an arcade of two pointed arches to the north aisle, having an octagonal pillar and semi-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases, all of late-14th-century date. The north doorway has a pointed arch of two moulded orders under a square head with trefoils in the spandrels: the mouldings rise from stops at the base: there is no label. This is a 15th-century doorway, well preserved, and is set reversed, with the outside of the doorway towards the nave. The south arcade at present consists of two pointed arches with central octagonal pillar and semi-octagonal respond at the west: but what appears to be the pillar of a third arch, eastwards, lies buried in the east wall. The arches are of two chamfered orders and the pillar and respond have moulded capitals and base of early-15th-century character: the base of the pillar has been mutilated. A three-light window with a timber frame, to the west of the arcade, is modern. The south doorway has a segmental arch with continuous mouldings and is probably 14th-century work: it opens to the south porch, now used as a vestry. The west window is modern.

The north aisle has two windows in the north wall, each of three cinquefoiled lights. The eastern one has a pointed head with interlacing and perpendicular tracery and is of the end of the 14th century. The other has a square head and was probably inserted in the 16th century. The south aisle when first built appears to have formed a western extension of the chapel. In the east wall, built when the chapel was destroyed, is a single cinquefoiled light with a square head. In the

¹ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, v, g. 220 (10).

² Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 33 Hen. VIII.

³ *E. Chan. Proc.* 47/244.

⁴ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 54.

⁵ *Cat. Anc. Deeds*, iii, D. 1073; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiii, 136.

⁶ *Ibid.* lviii, 52.

⁷ *Suss. Chantryes* (*Suss. Rec. Soc.*), 174.

⁸ *Horsfield, Sussex*, i, 547; *Lower, Sussex*, i, 62.

south wall are two windows, each of two lights. The heads of both have been cut away for the present lean-to roof of the aisle. On the buttress between the windows is sculptured a St. Catherine's wheel and on a stone west of the buttress is the Pelham buckle. The south porch has a doorway with a round arch over which is the date 1737.

The bell-turret rises one story out of the west end of the roof of the nave. It is covered with boarding, pierced with small holes, and is surmounted by a low octagonal spire. Within the nave is a great timber truss for the support of the eastern portion of the turret: it is now encased in modern boarding in the form of octagonal pillars and one pointed arch which spans the whole width of the nave. An original sill of the framework remains on the north side but the corresponding sill on the south has disappeared.

The font is modern.

In the turret are four bells, all by Lester and Pack, 1753.¹

The plate consists of a silver cup, paten, and flagon, all of 1747; and a silver alms-plate of 1753.²

The registers begin in 1539.

The chapel of Wartling formed *ADVOWSON* part of the endowment of a prebend attached to the College of St. Mary in the Castle of Hastings. The prebend was further endowed with the tithes of all the demesne lands of the manor, the tithes of all the salt on any of these lands, the chapels of Hooe and Ninfield, other tithes and land in the neighbourhood, and a house within the castle, probably as the prebendal residence.³ Wartling was at

first attached to the prebend of Hooe,⁴ but at the beginning of the 13th century it was formed into a separate prebend, its value in 1291 being £16 13s. 4d., by which time a vicarage had been ordained worth £6 13s. 4d.⁵ In 1342 the rent of assize amounted to 23s. 1d. and the perquisites of the court to 3s. 4d.,⁶ but this is the only evidence found of manorial rights. In 1535 the values of the prebend and vicarage are given as 11s. and £16 os. 1d. respectively.⁷ Both were included in the grant of Hastings College to Sir Anthony Browne in 1547,⁸ and the advowson, except for short periods when it was alienated for various reasons, remained in his family until 1721, when it was sold by Anthony Viscount Montagu to Sir Thomas Webster,⁹ whose descendant was holding it in 1811.¹⁰ Since that date it has repeatedly changed hands.¹¹ It is now in the gift of the Bishop of Chichester.

The rectory was granted by Anthony Viscount Montagu in 1586¹² to John Haye, who died seised of it in 1605¹³ leaving a son Herbert aged 14. Later it appears to have belonged to a family named Langham, William Langham and Martha holding half of it in 1666.¹⁴ In 1722 John Langham and others conveyed it by fine to Robert Rosam and John Lancaster.¹⁵ In 1835 the rectory and tithes were owned by the Rev. J. B. Hayley of Brightling.¹⁶

Boreham Street Congregational *CHARITIES* Chapel, comprised in an indenture dated 4 February 1835, is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners of 7 February 1928 which directs that the charity be administered by the Sussex Congregational Union [Incorporated].

¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 194, 228.

² *Ibid.* lv, 155-6.

³ *Ibid.* xiii, 134, 135.

⁴ *Ibid.* 144.

⁵ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 137b.

⁶ *Non. Inq.* (Rec. Com.), 371.

⁷ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), 355.

⁸ *Pat. R.* 38 Hen. VIII, pt. 13, m. 11.

⁹ *Feet of F. Suss. Mich.* 8 Geo. I.

¹⁰ *Recov. R. Hil.* 51 Geo. III, ro. 270.

¹¹ *See Add. MS.* 39469, fols. 329-34.

¹² *Pat.* 29 Eliz. pt. 18, m. 23.

¹³ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cclxxxix, 75.

¹⁴ *Feet of F. Suss. Mich.* 18 Chas. II.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* Mich. 9 Geo. I.

¹⁶ *Horsfield, Sussex*, i, 548.

THE HUNDRED OF GOLDSPUR

CONTAINING THE PARISHES OF

BECKLEY

EAST GULDEFORD

PEASMARSH

BROOMHILL

IDEN

PLAYDEN

COLESPORE (xi cent.); Culspore, Gulespore (xiii cent.).

At the time of Domesday Survey¹ East Guldeford was not a separate parish, it being formed in the 16th century from marshlands in Playden and Broomhill. A large part of the parish of Broomhill was in Kent until 1895, but it is not mentioned in the Domesday record of either county. Peasmarsh also is not mentioned, but may correspond to the unidentified 'Evebentone', and Beckley is apparently represented by 'Glesham', probably Glossams in that parish.

Goldspur Hundred always pertained to the honour and rape of Hastings and owed suit at the court of the lord of that rape.² In 1290 complaint was made by John of Brittany, Earl of Richmond, that the men and tenants of Iden refused to do suit at his hundred of Goldspur on the ground that the said manor was in the hands of the king.³ The site of the hundred-court is unknown. The hundred was divided for purposes of taxation into the four tithings of Knelle, Heighton, Hope, and Wivelridge;⁴ of which Knelle was entirely, and Heighton mainly in Beckley, Wivelridge was in Peasmarsh, and Hope covered the parishes of Iden and Playden. Additional tithings of Combe, in Peasmarsh, and Watcombe, in Beckley, are mentioned from the end of the 14th century.⁵ The tithing of 'Colespore' seems to have been in the south-east corner of the hundred to which it gave its name, in Rye Foreign, its inhabitants being tenants of the Abbot of Fécamp and often failing to appear at the hundred court.⁶

¹ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 405.

² *Feud. Aids*, v, 133.

³ *Cal. Pat.* 1281-92, p. 397.

⁴ Subsidies, *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, 14, 215, 326.

⁵ *Ibid.* xxxvii, 121; *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (1), 298.

⁶ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxvii, 130, 133.

BECKLEY

Beccalia (xii cent.); Becheleya (xiii cent.); Bekele (xiv cent.).

The parish of Beckley has an area of 5,619 acres, of which 16 are water. It is bounded on the south by the River Tillingham, which rises in the parish, and on the north by the River Rother, which there forms the boundary between Sussex and Kent. From the Tillingham the ground rises steeply to Ludley Hill, and in the woods behind reaches an elevation of 270 ft. This point is said to command a view of 14 parish churches. The centre of the parish is for the most part between 100 ft. and 200 ft. Towards the north it slopes down again to the Rother, almost at sea-level. A road enters the south of the parish and winds northward, Moore's Lane branching from it to Glasseye Farm and Beckley Furnace on the SW. border. The site of Blossoms Place, with the remains of a moat, lies to the east of this road. After passing Gate Farm the road forks, both branches running into the main road, going roughly east and west, from Northiam to Peasmarsh, along which the village lies. All Saints Church is at the west end of the village, and Four Oaks at a point to the east where several roads meet. Here one road runs NW. to Great and Little Knelle, and another NE. to Bell-hurst and Oxenbridge, and farther north to Mether-sham. From the same point a road goes south, turning presently eastward towards Peasmarsh, with a branch NE. leading to Kitchenour.

There is a water-mill to the south of the village, near the western boundary of the parish.

The iron-furnace in the southwest of the parish was used for the making of great guns in 1717, and was capable of turning out 200 tons a year. It was still working in 1744.¹ There was also a glass-house in the parish in the 16th century.² At Alder Shaw, to the east of Ludley Hill, an oakwood of 8 acres, there is a heronry; the birds first established themselves there in 1892, and in 1905 there were about 40 nests.³

Knelle Dower House—formerly Northlands— $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of the church, is a 15th-century house of rectangular plan. It had a hall of two bays, open to the roof, and solar and buttery wings. The usual upper floor and central chimney-stack were inserted in the hall in the 17th century. The thatched roof is modern, but there are remains of the middle truss of the hall, having a heavy cambered chamfered tie-beam and one of the curved braces below it. The east wall-truss with curved braces is also visible. The moulded wall-beams of the hall remain in the lower story; the eastern is interrupted by the great chimney-stack. The external framing has been much renewed. The north front has close-set studding to both stories, and a modern porch. The other framing is generally in square or rectangular panels with a few struts. There are two or three original windows in the upper story with diamond-shaped mullions.

Ludley Farm, about 2 miles south of the church, is a 15th-century house which was partly destroyed by fire in 1933. It had a hall-place with a solar wing to the east, and the latter survives and has been restored. The east end wall of the hall remains: in it is the end truss of the former hall-roof with an octagonal king-post and three-way struts of ogee shape under a collar-beam and

central purlin. At the first-floor level in the same wall is a mutilated moulded wall-beam of an early-15th-century contour. The remaining wing has a jettied upper story on the east front, supported by curved brackets and the ends of wide flat joists. The external walls retain some original timbers, but generally they are of modern renovation, and the west half of the house has been entirely rebuilt.

Hayes Farm,⁴ east of Ludley, dates in part from the end of the 15th century. The original part forms the south wing or stem of a modified T-shaped plan. The middle bay of this, which was part of the hall, has an open roof with plain king-posts, supported by curved struts from the tie-beam, and carrying a longitudinal brace and central purlin. The rafters are laid flatwise. The south bay has its upper story jettied on the south side, and a diagonal ceiling-beam inside indicates that the east front was also jettied. The south wall has close-set studding to both stories; the upper has a moulded rail midway in the height, an unusual feature and perhaps not in its original place: there is one ancient window in the wall, with diamond-shaped mullions behind modern glazing, also a modern projecting chimney-stack. The back (west) wall has curved struts in the framing of the upper story; the lower is of brick. The east front has its lower story rebuilt in masonry, and the upper is tile-hung. The central chimney-stack inserted between the middle and north bays has a fire-place with mutilated oak Tudor arched lintel. A semi-winding staircase rises west of the chimney-stack. The former kitchen in the north bay has a great fire-place, and a stop-chamfered ceiling-beam, supported by a re-used post in which is the springing arc of a Tudor arch, which perhaps once spanned the fire-place. In the upper story is some original combed plaster ornament.

A thatched cottage about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south-east of Ludley Farm may be of 16th-century or earlier origin: it has shaped posts and other heavy timbers in the walls, and wide flat ceiling-joists in one of the rooms. There is, however, no trace of a medieval roof. The chimney-stack at the east end has a wide fire-place: above the roof it is of late-17th-century bricks.

Church House⁵ on the main road, south of the church, is of a T-shaped plan. The head of the T is the front block of c. 1740, built of red brick with rubbed brick dressings: it has sash windows and a moulded brick cornice. On the back of it is a lead plate inscribed 'W. GIBBS PLVM^R 1745'; and a rainwater-pipe bears the date 1744 and the initials w^{WE}, for Walter Waters and Elizabeth his wife.⁶ The stem of the T, the back part of the house, is of early-17th-century date but encased in later brick. The principal lower room here has chamfered ceiling-beams and a wide fire-place. The room above it is lined with early-17th-century paneling: this has enriched pilasters and an over-door of pierced cresting on which is a shield in a wreath carved with a heart and letters and date 1626, the initials of Thomas Sharpe, who was rector at that time, and his wife Anne. The fire-place has a fine carved overmantel with round-headed panels and four pilasters carved with terminal figures.

Gate Farm, about a mile south of the church, was

¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxvii, 42, 44, 47, 52; Straker, *Wealden Iron*, 348.

² Vide *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 255.

³ Paper by T. Parkin in *Hastings Nat. Hist. Soc. J.*

⁴ See *Suss. County Mag.* v, 243-8.

⁵ *Ibid.* viii, 536-40.

⁶ *Ibid.* 540.

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built early in the 17th century on an L-shaped plan, the walls being timber-framed, but enlarged and refaced in brick later. The old framing is visible inside and the ceilings of both floors have stop-chamfered beams. The central chimney-stack has wide fire-places: one has an arched oak bressummer, and an iron fire-back with an oak tree and crown design of the time of Charles II. Watcombe Farm, just north of Gate Farm, has cemented and weather-boarded walls and a plain square central chimney-stack of the 17th century.

Horsepen,¹ east of the church, is a small T-shaped house of early- to mid-16th-century date, with modern additions. The north-east wing—the head of the T—is of close studding and curved struts (visible inside) and has a jetted upper story with a moulded bressummer, and a gable head with a modern barge-board. The other wing has square framing and is probably a replacement, c. 1700, of the original hall-place. The rooms have open-timbered ceilings and the central chimney-stack in the north-east wing has wide fire-places with chamfered lintels. In the original north-east wall is some plaster combing in wavy lines.

There are four old cottages on the main road between Horsepen and Four Oaks, with thatched roofs, all probably of the 17th century: two are covered with weatherboarding, the others show framing of thin timbers. At Four Oaks is a cottage (c. 1600) of timber-framing with curved struts, &c., and a thatched roof.

'Old Dean', at the east corner of the road to Horns Cross, is a rectangular house of c. 1600, lengthened later in the 17th century by another bay at the north-east end. The walls are of square-panelled framing. The rooms have open-timbered ceilings and the central chimney-stack has the usual wide fire-place.

The Methodist chapel in the village was built in 1840.

There is a good deal of woodland in the parish, and the chief crops are wheat and hops. The soil is loamy with a subsoil of clay.

BECKLEY is sometimes identified with MANORS one of the manors bequeathed in 900 by King Alfred to his kinsman Osferth,² but the identification is at least doubtful and no manor of Beckley is found later.

The manor of KNELLE was held of the honour of Hastings by the family of that name. In 1190³ and 1212⁴ Stephen de Knelle was in possession of the fee. His son Geoffrey⁵ succeeded him, and in 1255 Matthew son of Geoffrey de Knelle received grant of free warren in his lands there outside the king's forest.⁶ In 1274–5 he was fined for obstructing the way between the Cross of Wyte and Maythambridge.⁷ This

Matthew fell into debt⁸ and was obliged to pledge half his lands with Robert Paulyn of Winchelsea, in whose hands they still were at the death of his son and successor Geoffrey in 1295.⁹ Geoffrey held the manor as one knight's fee, of the barony of Hastings, then in the hands of the king. His brother Matthew succeeded in 1295, and in 1319 received back half the manor (presumably that mortgaged to Robert Paulyn) from Geoffrey Solace.¹⁰ Matthew's eldest son Geoffrey in 1332 had licence to build a sea wall at Knelles flote, on the Rother, as the inundations of the river threatened to destroy the highway between the land of John de la Gate (his neighbour at Gate Court) and Newenden Bridge.¹¹ Geoffrey died without issue soon after, for his brother Edmund owned the manor in 1335 and 1339.¹² Edmund son of this Edmund died childless;¹³ his sister Margaret married William de Welles, and they held the manor in 1362.¹⁴ In 1375 Henry and John Auchier and their wives Alice and Joan, daughters of this Margaret, sued William de Welles for half the manor.¹⁵ In 1384 it was alleged that Margaret's sister Agnes, who had been a nun at Davington (Kent) for 30 years, was taken out of her priory by John Oxenbrige and others, dressed in secular clothes and brought into court to levy a fine¹⁶ of the manor in favour of John Brook.¹⁷ A compromise seems to have been made, as in 1389 Agnes was holding a rent of 5 marks from the manor, granted to her for life by Sir Robert Belknap,¹⁸ who had obtained a grant of the manor from Sir William de Welles for the latter's life, and in 1385 secured the reversion from Thomas Lyvet, cousin of Edmund de Knelle.¹⁹ Sir Robert Belknap was sentenced for treason and banished to Ireland in 1388,²⁰ and his wife Juliana had considerable difficulty in keeping possession of Knelle. She recovered it from the custody of Katharine Lady Dengayne in 1390,²¹ but in 1401 she had to contest a grant to Thomas Beaufort,²² and seems to have remained in possession²³ until her death in 1415.²⁴ Hamon de Belknap, heir of Sir Robert, obtained reversal of his father's attainder, possibly as the result of services in the French Wars,²⁵ and died seised of Knelle in 1429.²⁶ His son John succeeded. In 1484 Henry Belknap inherited it from his brother William,²⁷ and in 1488 it passed to Henry's widow Margaret for life, and afterwards to their son Edward.²⁸ Edward died in 1521 without issue but leaving four sisters, and Knelle was allotted by his will to Alice and her husband Sir William Shelley.²⁹ Sir William died in 1548 or 1549,³⁰ and his eldest son John in 1550.³¹ William son of John held it after him,³² but was attainted in 1582, and Knelle was granted for a time to Henry Selhurst, and to Thomas Sere in 1587, and Giles Sere in 1594–5.³³ William Shelley's nephew

¹ The name Horsepen apparently was derived from the use of the building in connexion with a forge. It is said to have been an inn in the 17th century.

² Birch, *Cart. Sax.* ii, 178, no. 553.

³ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Com.), 42.

⁴ *Red Bk. of Exch.* ii, 623.

⁵ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley MSS.* 76.

⁶ *Cal. Chart. R.* i, 442.

⁷ *Rot. Hund.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 217.

⁸ Possibly incurred during a quarrel with Edmund de Passele, overlord in Beckley, for which Matthew and his sons Geoffrey and Matthew were imprisoned and fined in 1290: *Cal. Fine R.* i, 269.

⁹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, 255.

¹⁰ Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 12 Edw. II.

¹¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1330–4, pp. 253, 288. Extensive repairs to this wall were required

within ten years: *ibid.* 1340–3, pp. 360, 538.

¹² Feet of F. Suss. Ascen. 9 Edw. III; *Coll. Top. et Gen.* vii, 118.

¹³ Add. MS. 39374, fol. 262.

¹⁴ Feet of F. Suss. East. 36 Edw. III.

¹⁵ Wrottesley, *Ped. from Plea Rolls*, 120.

¹⁶ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 8 Ric. II, no.

27.

¹⁷ Add. MS. 39375, fol. 44. John Brook gave up his right in the manor to Sir Robert next year; *ibid.* fol. 48.

¹⁸ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 12 Ric. II, 86; *Cal. Close*, 1385–9, p. 559.

¹⁹ *Cal. Close*, 1381–5, p. 634; *ibid.* 1385–9, p. 90; *Close R.* 9 Ric. II, pt. 1, m. 40; Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 9 Ric. II, no. 1.

²⁰ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

²¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1388–92, pp. 231, 314.

²² *Ibid.* 1399–1401, pp. 176, 460, 463,

and 550.

²³ 'The Lady of Knell' occurs in 1412: *Suss. Arch. Coll.* x, 129.

²⁴ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

²⁵ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xv, 137. He was in the retinue of the Duke of Bedford in 1420.

²⁶ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 7 Hen. VI, no. 43.

²⁷ *Ibid.* 2 Ric. III, no. 16.

²⁸ *Inq. p.m.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xiv), no. 97. Henry desired by his will to be buried in the Chapel of our Lady at Beckley: P.C.C. 17 Milles.

²⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 13 Hen. VIII, 37 (133), and E. 1074 (3); *E. Chan. Proc. bde.* 579, no. 28.

³⁰ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

³¹ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xiv, no. 927.

³² *Ibid.* iii, p. 103; xix, 25.

³³ *Pat. R.* 29 Eliz. pt. 15, m. 2; *ibid.* 37 Eliz. pt. 4.



BECKLEY: HORSEPEN



BECKLEY CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST, 1784
(From a drawing in the Burrell Collections)

John, however, had regained it by 1628.¹ John was made a baronet in 1611 and died in 1642, when the manor passed to his grandson Charles, who owned it in 1661.² Knelle remained in the Shelley family until 1788, when Jeremiah Curteis of Rye purchased the estate for £16,050, exclusive of timber.³ In 1789 half



BELKNAP. *Azure three eagles bendwise between two cottises argent.*



SHELLEY. *Sable a fesse engrailed between three whelk shells or.*

the manor was conveyed by Barnard and Martha Hale to Jeremiah.⁴ The latter died in 1806 and Knelle passed to his son Edward Jeremiah, who owned the whole manor in 1835.⁵ Herbert Barrett Curteis inherited from his father that year, and was succeeded in 1847 by his son Herbert Mascall Curteis, who held the manor in 1870,⁶ and was succeeded in his property by his son and grandson.⁷ From the Curteis family Knelle passed to W. Langham Christie, whose son A. L. Christie sold the estate in separate lots in 1908.⁸

GLESHAM,⁹ held of Count Robert of Eu in 1086 by the same three men who had held it before the Conquest,¹⁰ was sold not long afterwards to Battle Abbey, by Gerald de Normanville, steward of Henry de Eu, for 20 marks, and confirmed to that abbey by Henry I, as a grant of the overlord, the Count of Eu.¹¹ No more is heard of it under that name among the abbey estates, but it is possible that this part of Glesham became Glesye, now Glasseye Farm, of which there is frequent mention in the abbey accounts.

A family of de Glesham existed in Beckley for some time. John de Glesham is mentioned in 1296 and in 1332.¹² In 1381 another John, holding land in Beckley and Peasmarsh, conveyed it to Nicholas Rote, citizen and vintner of London.¹³ A so-called manor of Glesham in Beckley and Peasmarsh conveyed in 1398 by William son of Thomas Acdenne to Sir Benedict Cely¹⁴ may possibly refer to these lands. In the middle of the 15th century the tenements of Gate and Glesham, with 800 acres, were in the hands of William Oxenbridge, after

whose death his widow Pernel, who married Seth Standys, claimed them against William's son Thomas Oxenbridge.¹⁵ Subsequently the manor, henceforth called Gate and Glossames, came into the hands of the Windsor family, and it appears in 1560 in possession of Edward third Lord Windsor,¹⁶ who leased it then to Richard Puttenham. Edmund Windsor, his uncle, also about this time had dealings over this manor with George Puttenham, to whom Edward's grandfather had leased neighbouring manors.¹⁷ Edward Lord Windsor died seized of it in 1575,¹⁸ and it descended successively to his sons Frederick and Henry.¹⁹ The latter conveyed it to Andrew Windsor and Anne his wife,²⁰ who in turn sold it in 1602 to Thomas Habington,²¹ the historian of Worcestershire, on whose attainder it was granted by the Crown about 1613 to Sir Dudley Digges.²² Later it must have been restored, as Thomas Habington, who died in 1647, left orders for its sale.²³ Accordingly, in 1648, William and Anthony Habington, with Sir Robert Throckmorton,²⁴ conveyed Gate and Glossames to Samuel Gott.²⁵ Peter Gott was in possession of the manor in 1667 and in 1693,²⁶ and his son Samuel was holding it in 1721 and died in 1724.²⁷ It is then lost sight of, except that in 1789–90 it was in the hands of Sir Joseph Banks and others.²⁸ In 1835 the site of a former house called 'Blossomplace' is mentioned, of which the moat was still traceable.²⁹

KITCHENOUR³⁰ manor was held of the lord of the rape by service of one knight's fee. The tithes of it were given to the canons of St. Mary at Hastings by Robert of Eu, and confirmed to them by Count Henry in the 12th century.³¹ In 1166 Hugh de Chekenora is returned as holding one fee of the Count of Eu, and in 1210–12 this fee was held by William de Cuchenovere.³² He was no doubt the William de Kechenore who granted certain brookland to Stephen Beaufitz of Rye for a rent of 20d. payable 'at my court of Kechenore'.³³ His son Walter had a son John whose daughter Maud was the mother of William de Passeley, living in 1318.³⁴ Maud's husband was apparently Edmund, son of Robert de Passeley of Leigh in Iden, as Edmund and his wife Maud are mentioned in 1290,³⁵ and he received free warren at Kitchenour in 1298, and was holding the fee in 1320.³⁶ Kitchenour passed to his son John, who died without issue, leaving three sisters—Sarra, mother of Thomas atte More, Margery, grandmother of John son of William de Lunsford, and Idonia, mother of Thomas de Chalfhunte; and in 1366 Thomas atte More was claiming one-third of the manor against John Kyriel.³⁷ The nature of the latter's claim does not appear, but he

¹ *Feet of F.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix); *Visit. Suss.* (Harl. Soc.), 37.

² *Feet of F.* Suss. Trin. 13 Chas. II; G.E.C. *Complete Baronetage*, i, 25.

³ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 621; *ibid.* 39497, fol. 152.

⁴ *Feet of F.* Suss. Mich. 29 Geo. III.

⁵ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 509.

⁶ Lower, *Sussex*, i, 40.

⁷ Burke, *Landed Gentry*.

⁸ *Ex inf.* Mr. L. A. Vidler.

⁹ Glesham (xi to xiv cent.); Glosshams, Glossomhall (xvi cent.).

¹⁰ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 405.

¹¹ Dugdale, *Monasticon*, iii, 247; *Chron.*

of Battle Abbey (ed. Lower), 58.

¹² *Subsidies* (Suss. Rec. Soc.), xiv, 326.

¹³ *Cal. Close*, 1377–81, p. 495.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* 1396–9, p. 311. A tenement called 'Ceelies' is mentioned in the 17th century in connexion with Ludley (q.v.)

in this parish.

¹⁵ Early Chan. Proc. 47, nos. 226–9.

¹⁶ *Feet of F.* Div. Co. Mich. 2 Eliz.

¹⁷ Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), 146 (5); *Feet of*

F. Div. Co. Mich. 20 Hen. VII.

¹⁸ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), clxxiii, 62.

¹⁹ *Inq. p.m.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xxxiii), no.

93.

²⁰ *Feet of F.* Suss. Mich. 37/38 Eliz.

Probably their brother. G.E.C. *Complete*

Peerage (1st ed.), viii, 186–7.

²¹ *Feet of F.* Suss. Mich. 44/45 Eliz.

²² Pat. R. 10 Jas. I, pt. 28; *ibid.* 12 Jas. I

pt. 8.

²³ *Habington's Survey of Worcs.* (Worcs.

Hist. Soc.), i, 16.

²⁴ Throckmorton held the manor in trust

for Habington: *ibid.* Cf. *Exch. Dep.* by

Com. Mich. 7 Chas. I, no. 2.

²⁵ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 178; Chan. Proc.

(Ser. 2), 386 (6); *Recov. R.* Mich. 1658,

no. 126.

²⁶ *Recov. R.* Trin. 29 Chas. II.

²⁷ *Ibid.* Trin. 7 Geo. I. See Crowham in

Westfield.

²⁸ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 465.

²⁹ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 509.

³⁰ Cecinore, Chekenora (xii cent.),

Cuchenovere, Kechenore (xiii cent.);

Kechendower (xvi cent.); Kechenower,

Kitching Ore (xvii cent.).

³¹ *Cat. Anc. Deeds*, iii, 532.

³² *Red Bk. Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), i, 203; ii,

554. A family of de Kechenore survived in

Iden for two centuries longer.

³³ Add. Ch. 20078.

³⁴ Add. MS. 39373, fol. 294.

³⁵ *Cal. Fine R.* i, 269.

³⁶ *Cal. Chart. R.* ii, 474; *Cal. Inq. Misc.*

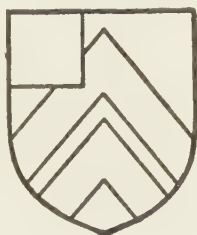
ii, no. 405.

³⁷ Add. MS. 39374, fol. 211.

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evidently retained the manor, as in 1411-12, and again at her death in 1419, it was held by Elizabeth Kyriel, on whom it had been settled with her husband Nicholas.¹ It passed to her grandson Sir Thomas in 1419, but he was beheaded after the Battle of St. Albans in 1461, and in 1470 it was in the possession of John Kyriel 'le Bastard'.² John died without issue.³

Meanwhile the manor of Kitchenour is found in 1341 and 1343 as held as one fee by Henry Finch,⁴ and in 1428 it was in the hands of Vincent and William Finch and the heirs of Henry, Vincent himself holding half a fee in Catsfield, Eatendon, and Kitchenour.⁵ That they were holding under the Kyriels is rendered the more probable from the fact that John Finch held the manor of Marley of John Kyriel as of his manor of Kitchenour in 1477.⁶ After this the descent of the manor is unknown, but in 1573 it was held by Thomas Benningfield⁷ (*sic*), and in 1582 Humphrey Bedingfield conveyed the manor to Henry Jackman and Thomas Thetford,⁸ who in 1586 conveyed it to William Hewett.⁹ William settled Kitchenour on his son John, on his marriage in 1597, and died in 1599.¹⁰ John died in 1602 leaving a son John aged 4.¹¹ As Sir Gilbert Wakering was lord of the manor in 1613 and 1616,¹² it is possible that John's widow Elizabeth had married him, and was holding it until the majority of her son. Sir John Hewett, who was made a baronet in 1621, held it in 1630.¹³ In 1641 Dame Elizabeth Beville, a relation of Sir John's wife,¹⁴ held Kitchenour for life, with reversion to Sir John, and petition was made against John Alford and others, who 'under colour of some commission of sewers' had made Sir John's meadow a pond and rendered the mill of the manor useless.¹⁵ Sir John was succeeded by his son and grandson John in 1657 and 1684 respectively,¹⁶ and the latter seems to have conveyed Kitchenour to Thomas Earl of Thanet in 1696, if not earlier.¹⁷ In 1715-29 it was held by Thomas, his fourth son, and after his death came to his sister Mary wife of John Lord Gower.¹⁸ She was still in possession in 1770, but soon after that the manor seems to have come into the hands of trustees,¹⁹ although she survived until 1785. In 1788 and 1790 it was



KYRIEL. Or two chevrons and a quarter gules.

owned by John Haddock,²⁰ but after that there is no further record of it.

METHERSHAM²¹ manor, which was held for a quarter of a knight's fee of the lord of the rape, was granted by Gervase de Osp' to William de St. Martin in 1185.²² The fee about 1200 was, however, held by Robert de Crevequer, and passed to the Passeley family, who later held Crevequer lands in Leigh and Iden.²³ William de St. Martin, sub-tenant of Robert de Crevequer, in 1190 placed Methersham in the hands of Robertsbridge Abbey, lately founded by his kinsman Alvred, confirming it to them in 1200, for a rent of 6s. 8d.²⁴ This, however, seems only to have been in the nature of a lease, as sometime before 1269 William de Northey was in possession,²⁵ and made a definite grant of the manor to Robertsbridge Abbey for the soul of his son John, lately deceased, with an accompanying charter from his overlord Robert de Crevequer,²⁶ grandson of the former Robert. The Abbot of Robertsbridge held the $\frac{1}{4}$ fee of Edmund de Passeley in 1298,²⁷ but in 1320 apparently direct from the lord of the rape.²⁸ After the Dissolution this manor was granted with other lands of Robertsbridge to Sir William Sidney and Agnes his wife in 1539,²⁹ and descended in that family³⁰ with the manor of Playden Moreland (q.v.).

BROWNSMITH³¹ manor is mentioned in 1320 as Bromenesmythe, when it was held for a quarter of a knight's fee by the 'Lady of Leyburne', of the king, as of his manor of Iden.³² This lady was doubtless Juliana de Leyburne of Ashford, widow of William de Leyburne, who died in 1327 and was succeeded by her granddaughter Juliana,³³ 'the Infanta of Kent'. She married three times, but died childless in 1367, when her lands, including Brownsmith, escheated to the Crown.³⁴ In 1390-1 Maud de Dene or de Berelynde released lands called Berelynde (now Barline) in Peasmarsh, which had been granted to her by John de Hastings, Juliana's first husband, and were held of Brownsmith.³⁵ In 1469-70 the manor is said to have been held for one knight's fee by the Dean of St. Stephen's, Westminster.³⁶ On the suppression of that college it came to the Crown³⁷ and subsequently to the White family, William White holding a court there in 1564-5, and another William White holding his last court there in 1665.³⁸ Next year William's widow Mary, with her daughter and nephew, conveyed the manor to Stephen Frewen,³⁹ whose youngest grandchild, Mary, married Henry Turner. Her son Laton Frewen Turner, and his

¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* x, 144; *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 7 Hen. V, no. 32.

² *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 17 Edw. IV, no. 32.

³ Planché, *Corner of Kent*, 292.

⁴ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, p. 232; *Cal. Misc.* ii, 103.

⁵ *Feud. Aids*, v, 150-1.

⁶ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 17 Edw. IV, no. 32.

⁷ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* iii, 103. Sir Edward Bedingfield (c. 1500) is said to have married Margaret Scott, granddaughter (but not heir) of Vincent Finch: *Visit. of Suss.* (Harl. Soc.), 49.

⁸ *Feet of F.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix), 249.

⁹ *Feet of F. Div. Co. East.* 28 Eliz.

¹⁰ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccclvi, 18.

¹¹ *Ibid.* cclxviii, 157.

¹² *Ibid.* cccxxxviii; *Add. MS.* 5679, fol. 611.

¹³ *Feet of F. Suss. Trin.* 6 Chas. I.

¹⁴ Sir John Hewett married Katharine, sister and heir of Sir Robert Beville; Dame Elizabeth might therefore have been her brother's widow: *G.E.C. Complete Baronetage*.

¹⁵ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* iv, 90.

¹⁶ *G.E.C. Complete Baronetage*; *Recov. R. Hil.* 2-3 Jas. II, ro. 37.

¹⁷ *Feet of F. Suss. East.* 8 Will. III. But in 1662 Thomas Earl of Thanet paid the castle-guard rents, although Robert Hewett did so from 1665 to 1670: *Add. MS.* 5679, fol. 611.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ *Ibid.*; *Feet of F. Suss. Hil.* 11 Geo. III.

²⁰ *Add. MS.* 5679, fol. 611.

²¹ *Madersham* (xii to xvii cent.).

²² *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), p. 41.

²³ *Ibid.* pp. 54 and 139.

²⁴ *Ibid.* pp. 42 and 54.

²⁵ A $\frac{1}{4}$ fee in Beckley was conveyed to him in 1247-8 by William le Fraunceys and Juliana his wife: *Feet of F.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. ii), 441.

²⁶ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), p. 113; *Rot. Hund.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 217.

²⁷ *Add. MS.* 39373, fol. 165.

²⁸ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 101.

²⁹ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv, pp. 422-3.

³⁰ *Inq. p.m.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xxxiii), no. 104.

³¹ Bromsmythe (xiv cent.); Brownsmyth (xvi and xvii cent.); Brownsmiths Oaks (xviii cent.).

³² *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 101. It is returned as being formerly of the possessions of Peter de Scoteny.

³³ *Farrer, Honors and Kts., Fees*, iii, 185.

³⁴ *Hasted, Kent*, iii, 257-8.

³⁵ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* v, 512. Barline was still so held in 1598: *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxiii, no. 148.

³⁶ *Add. MS.* 5679, fol. 178.

³⁷ *Aug. Off. Proc. Misc. Bks.* 130, fol. 37.

³⁸ *Add. MS.* 5679, fol. 178; *Visit. Suss.* (Harl. Soc.), 130; *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxiii, no. 148; *Feet of F. Suss. Trin.* 6 Edw. VI; *ibid.* Mich. 13 Jas. I.

³⁹ *Ibid.* Trin. 18 Chas. II.

cousin and heir the Rev. Thomas Frewen, were holding it in 1774, and the latter alone in 1784.¹ After this it probably continued in the possession of the Frewens of Northiam, but there is no further record of it. There is mention of a watermill in 1552,² and of this and a windmill in 1615 and 1673.³

In 1320 one-sixteenth of a fee in LUDLEY⁴ was held by the Abbot of Battle in frank almon of the barony of Hastings.⁵ In 1610 it was held by Anthony Sprott of Viscount Montagu's manor of Battle, or, according to another return, of the manor of Kitchenour, and descended to his son Jeremiah.⁶ Tobias Farnden and Peter his son, associated with Samuel Gott (of Glos-sames) settled it on Peter Farnden of Sedlescombe.⁷

CHURCH ALL SAINTS

The church of consists of a chancel, north chapel, south chapel, nave, north and south aisles, south porch, and west tower. It is built of stone, rubble and herring-bone work being used in the lower stage of the tower: the roofs are covered with tiles, and the roof of the nave is continuous over the aisles.

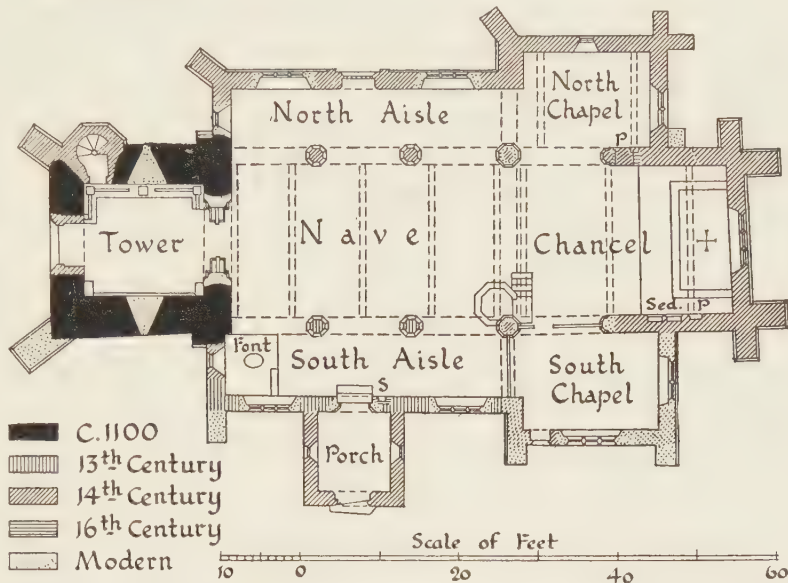
The lower stage of the tower is of about 1100. The south aisle was built in the latter part of the 13th century. In the 14th century the north aisle was added and the chancel rebuilt, a north chapel being added to the chancel, the chancel arch and the arch across the north aisle being included in the scheme. The south porch, the upper stage of the tower, the timber framework within the tower supporting the spire, the spire itself, and the turret stairway with the adjoining buttress are also all of this period. The church has been drastically restored in modern times.

The chancel has a good east window of about 1320: it is of three trefoiled lights with reticulated tracery in a pointed head. In the north wall is a pointed arch of two orders opening into the north chapel, and high up in the wall on the east side of the arch is a doorway, with a drop-arched head, to the rood loft. It is approached by a flight of steps which passes through the wall and begins from a high level in the north chapel. There is a rebate for a door on the chapel side, but how this doorway was reached is not clear, for there is a piscina in the wall below the sill. At the east end of the south wall of the chancel there are a piscina with modern head and sill and two sedilia with trefoiled heads: they are 14th-century work repaired. West of the sedilia is a pointed arch similar to that opposite it on the north. Both arches are of modern stonework; the semi-octagonal respond of the north arch only is old. The arches are in line with the nave arcades and spring from the east pillars of the arcades. These pillars are octagonal with moulded

capitals and bases; they are 8 in. thicker than the other pillars of the arcade, and also support the chancel arch and the arches in line with it across the aisles. The chancel arch is pointed and of two hollow-chamfered orders. The whole, including the pillars, is mostly of modern stonework.

The north chapel has a 14th-century east window of two cinquefoiled lights with tracery in a pointed head, placed in the wall about 1 ft. south of the central line of the chapel. In the north wall is a small window

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of the same period, of a single trefoiled light. On the west is a lancet-pointed arch, much repaired, to the north aisle: it springs on the north side from a 14th-century corbel with a grotesque head. The piscina at the south-east, partly below the rood-loft doorway, has a pointed head and a plain circular bowl.

The 19th-century south chapel has an east window of two trefoiled lights with tracery in a pointed head and, in the south wall, a pointed priest's doorway with continuous mouldings, possibly re-used, and a window of three lights. The arch at the west of the aisle is similar to the corresponding arch in the north chapel.

The nave has an arcade of three pointed arches of two plain chamfered orders on either side. Both arcades have been rebuilt and retain little original work except the west pillars on either side. The pillars are octagonal and have moulded capitals and bases: at the west the arches spring from moulded corbels with grotesque head terminals, that on the south being modern. Existing details indicate that the south arcade is of the 13th century and the north arcade of the 14th century. The tower arch is modern. The nave has an open roof of the 14th century with queen-post trusses, reconstructed. There are two modern dormer windows on either side.

The north aisle has two windows, each of three lights, in the north wall, and a single-light window in the west wall: all of modern stonework. The north

¹ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 178; Burke, *Landed Gentry*. ² Feet of F. Trin. 6 Edw. VI.

³ Ibid. Mich. 13 Jas. I; Hil. 25-6 Chas. II.

⁴ Loddelegh (xiv cent.); Ludloe (xvii cent.).

⁵ Cal. Inq. Misc. ii, 101. For a reference to 'the fee of Lodelegh' in 1363 see Hist.

MSS. Com. Rep. v, 510.

⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxxxiii, no. 6; cccc, no. 17.

⁷ Suss. Rec. Soc. xxix, no. 731.

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doorway is blocked: it is 14th-century work with a pointed head of two moulded orders.

In the south aisle the two south windows are modern; but a small cinquefoiled light in the west wall is of the 14th century. The south doorway has been rebuilt from the base. On the east of the doorway, inside the aisle, is a pointed recess for a stoup. The south porch has on either side a single-light window, the outer jambs of that on the west only being old work. The doorway has an elliptical head, with a plain chamfer.

The tower is of two stages, surmounted by an octagonal timber spire. Placed high in the wall on the north, west, and south sides is a small single-light window with a round head, those on the north and south being blocked. The west doorway, which has a pointed head with continuous mouldings, was inserted in the 14th century. After the upper stage of the tower was added two deep buttresses, rising to about the middle of that stage, were built at the west angles: that at the south-west has been rebuilt in modern brickwork. The turret stairway at the west end of the north wall rises to about the same height as the buttresses and is there finished with a stone roof. The faces of the bell-chamber are set back slightly, on a weathered course, from those of the stage below, and are covered with cement except at the corners, where the large quoin stones are exposed. On the west and south sides are three narrow lights arranged on two planes, two of them, set widely apart, on the lower and the third, set centrally, on the upper plane. The north side is pierced by the upper window only. The timber framework of the spire rises from the ground floor of the tower and on the north side the great base truss with its flanking supports remains. The sill is 16 in. by 12½ in. and the posts and curved struts are all composed of large timbers. On the south the base truss has been replaced by brickwork.

The font has a white marble bowl, shell-shaped, of the 17th century, standing on a modern limestone base. In the tower arch is a screen in which some 17th-century twisted balusters, belonging to former altar rails, have been re-used. Nearby is a medieval dug-out chest with a later bottom. Immediately in front of the threshold of the doorway of the south porch is a medieval coffin cover of Sussex marble with a cross on the top, now much worn by being trodden over.

There are six bells: 1, 4, 5, and 6, are by Richard Phelps, 1708; 2, by T. Mears, 1825; and 3, by Wm. Mears, 1780.¹

The church plate consists of a silver cup; a silver paten on a foot; a silver flagon; and a silver alms dish. These pieces are all of 1729 and are all inscribed 'Ex Dono Elizabethae Lloyd Caelibis'.²

The registers begin in 1597.

The church of Beckley was granted *ADVOWSON* by Count Robert of Eu to the canons of St. Mary in the Castle of Hastings, and was confirmed to them by his grandson Henry in the 12th century.³ The advowson was attached to the prebend of Peasmarsh. After the Dissolution the rectory and advowson of Beckley were granted with that prebend in 1547 to Sir Anthony Browne,⁴ whose son was created Viscount Montagu, and remained in his family until 1637, when the advowson was conveyed to Richard Holman,⁵ and the Holman family presented in 1682 and 1699.⁶ The advowson came into the hands of the Hoopers, Thomas Hooper presenting in 1752, and Elizabeth Hooper in 1804.⁷ In 1835 the Rev. H. Hodges was patron,⁸ but by 1837 it had come into the hands of University College, Oxford,⁹ who still hold it.

Mrs. Sarah Durham, by her will *CHARITIES* proved in London on 8 January 1869, gave £300 to the rector to apply the interest thereon for the poor. The endowment now produces about £8 per annum.

Miss Elizabeth Hooper, by her will proved in London in January 1820, gave £300 5 per cent. Bank Annuities to the rector and churchwardens of Beckley to apply the interest for the poor. The endowment produces about £8 per annum, which is distributed together with Mrs. Durham's charity.

Mrs. Marsden's Charity. It appears from a memorial tablet in the parish church that in 1842 and 1844 Mrs. Marsden gave to the rector and two others £120 Consols, the interest to be applied for the poor. The endowment produces £5 10s. per annum, which is paid to the Beckley Female Free Gift Society.

Albert John Roberts, by his will proved in London on 21 April 1914, gave £250 to the trustees of the Wesleyan chapel for the benefit of the chapel. The dividends on this invested sum are applied accordingly.

BROOMHILL

Prunhelle (xii cent.); Promhell (xiii and xiv cent.); Promhill, Promehill (xv cent.).

This parish, formerly partly in Kent, but transferred wholly to Sussex by an order of the Local Government Board of 20 April 1895, has an area of 2,458 acres of land, chiefly pasture, 101 acres of water, and 463 acres of foreshore. It consists of a stretch of flat land, intersected by numerous ditches, and very thinly populated. The highest point is 16 ft. above sea-level. The northern boundary is formed by the Kent Ditch, Rainbow Sewer, and Kentpen Wall; the south is sea coast. Jury's Gut coastguard station is situated at the eastern end of the shore, and the school towards the western end. Broomhill Farm lies about midway along the

coast, and the site of the ancient church a little inland to the east of it. Since about 1920 a bungalow town, called Camber Sands, has sprung up in the parish, and the population has much increased.

BROOMHILL does not seem ever to have been a manor, although the title is applied to it in two instances. In 1322 William de Sevauns (de Septem Vannis) was said to have died seised of the manor of Broomhill in Kent with the advowson of the free chapel of Burle, held of the Archbishop of Canterbury as half a knight's fee,¹⁰ and of other lands there held of the Prior of Bilsington, Stephen de Romene, and the Abbot of Battle. The other instance was between 1201 and 1204, when the Abbot of Robertsbridge came to an

¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 199.

² *Ibid.* lv, 200.

³ *Cat. Anct. Deeds*, iii, 532.

⁴ *Pat. R.* 38 Hen. VIII, pt. 13.

⁵ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 13 Chas. I

⁶ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.). The Archbishop presented in 1674, presumably by lapse.

⁷ *Ibid.* The arms of Odiarne Hooper,

d. 1769, and his wife Ann, d. 1775, are in the church. ⁸ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 509.

⁹ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

¹⁰ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, 414.

agreement with the Abbot of Battle concerning land which the latter claimed to belong to his manor of Broomhill. This was disputed by 'the men of Broomhill', i.e. members of a prolific family de Promhelle among whom the property had evidently become divided by descent in gavelkind.¹ They said that the abbot only had 30 acres in demesne and that in the remaining 500 acres he only had the services of the tenants.² Eventually twelve members of the Promhelle family gave up their claims to the disputed marsh 'between Swanesmere and La Chene'³ to the two abbots in exchange for other lands.⁴

Shortly after the Conquest William de St. Leger, with the consent of Count Robert of Eu, gave his land here to Battle Abbey for a rent of 23s., of which 3s. was remitted by his heir Clarembald.⁵ Subsequently Geoffrey de St. Leger gave all the land of his fee of Fairlight beyond Winchelsea in Broomhill, with marshlands lying between the great fleet, or stream, which goes towards Rye, the water of la Chene, the bounds of Kent, and 'the forsworn lands' (*terras perjuratas*).⁶ This 'fee of St. Leger'⁷ was represented in 1320 by the half fee in Broomhill, Stonelink, and Covehurst held of the manor of Fairlight by Stephen Alard.⁸

Land called Dudeman's was held of the fee of Old Romney, which was in the hands of Aubrey widow of William de Gerpunvill about 1200⁹ and subsequently of her daughter Alice.¹⁰ A grant in Broomhill to Robertsbridge Abbey made by Thomas son of Geoffrey about 1220 shows this fee in the hands of Stephen de Burstowe,¹¹ though it appears to have passed through Alice to the FitzBernards.¹²

Other land in Broomhill was granted c. 1189 to Alfred de St. Martin by Guy de Mortimer and Idonea his wife,¹³ who seems to have been Idonea de Herste,¹⁴ whose son Waleran de Herste, or de Monceaux, granted all his holding of his fee in Broomhill to Robertsbridge Abbey,¹⁵ to whom it was confirmed by his son William.¹⁶

John de Gestling in 1208 granted to four groups of partners half the marsh which 'in the year after the death of Archbishop Hubert and the murder (*necem*) of Elias de Rye' they inclosed, lying between the land of the men of Broomhill, the marsh called Grikes, which Elias inclosed in his lifetime, and the demesne of the Abbot of Battle. In return they had inclosed half of the marsh for him, and undertook the upkeep of the wall; if this were afterwards protected from the sea by an outer wall, then half that wall, with the dyke (*dicdelvo*) inside and out, should belong to him and half to them and neither should destroy their part without the other's leave. For this they were to pay certain rents and to do suit 'at my court in the forsworn lands' and not elsewhere.¹⁷

The war between the landowners and the sea was unceasing. In 1222 an agreement was made by the

Abbots of Battle and Robertsbridge, who had between them acquired most of the parish, to inclose marsh between Copenesse and la Chene, sharing the cost.¹⁸ The land so inclosed was 1,218 acres, of which Battle had 710½ and Robertsbridge 507½ acres.¹⁹ The storms which, between 1284 and 1287, completed the ruin of Old Winchelsea did great damage here. 'The township seems to have been overwhelmed and was probably rebuilt, if at all, on a new site, as 'Ealde Promhelle' occurs as a boundary mark in 1309,²⁰ in which year reference is made to the losses sustained by Robertsbridge through inundation of their lands in Broomhill.²¹ Some of this land was recovered and appears in 1313 as 'le Newe innynge'.²² A note attached to a rental of 1428-9 states that Priorsmarsh, belonging to Christ Church, Canterbury, and lying along the Wainway, used to be arable let for 26s. 8d. but had been drowned by the sea and was then only worth 6s. 8d.²³ Between 1478 and 1499 the abbey of Robertsbridge made over their marsh lands in the district to Sir Richard Guldeford, whose embanking activities produced the new parish of East Guldeford (q.v.) with which this part of Broomhill descended in the families of Guldeford and Curteis.

The Canterbury lands and others which were derelict or recovered from the sea evidently came into the hands of the Crown, as in 1568 'the Pryor of Cristcherche saltes and William Fynches saltes', the latter possibly representing the fee of Fairlight, were returned as containing 891 acres, of which 527 were leased to Philip Cockeram and 233 to John Berrye. These were embanked, but there were another 300 acres of marsh outside the walls; Stoneridge, 'a great waste of stones covered with beach, of no value'; and the Kyddell groundes, being sand below high water, where kiddles, or kettle nets, were set, leased for 8s. 3d.²⁴ John Berrye must have been the 'Mr. Burie' who lost 1,162 sheep when the sea broke through the walls on 5 October 1570,²⁵ and the breach made on that occasion is probably 'the new Brack' which was one of the bounds of 600 acres of salt marsh held from the Crown by Thomas Godfrey in 1595.²⁶ Broomhill was again temporarily overwhelmed by the sea in 1627.²⁷

Although the site of the church, of *ADVOWSON* which the ruins remained in 1637,²⁸ is shown on more recent maps as on the Sussex side of the border it must originally have been in Kent, as it was in the diocese of Canterbury from 1291, when it was rated at £10 13s. 4d.,²⁹ onwards. The rectory and advowson were held by the abbey of Guisnes.³⁰ Manasses Count of Guisnes and Emma his wife, heir to William de Arques, who held Folkestone in 1086, gave to St. Leonard of Guisnes the Kentish churches of 'Newington, Alschoth and Celpham'.³¹ The churches subsequently found in the hands of the abbey

¹ Adam son of Ailwin de Prumhelle gave to Battle a rent in Grikes Marsh 'with all right that I had in 88 acres which have descended to me and the other men of Prumhelle my coheirs': Hales MS. (Lincoln's Inn) 87, fol. 50v.

² Pipe R. 4 John; *Curia Regis* R. i, 467.

³ Cheyney Court near the north boundary of the parish.

⁴ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* ii, nos. 87, 93.

⁵ *Chron. Mon. de Bello* (ed. 1846), 84; Dugdale, *Mon.* iii, 247.

⁶ Hales MS. (Lincoln's Inn), 87, fol. 49.

⁷ Ibid. fol. 51; Aug. Off. Misc. Bks. 18, fol. 29v.

⁸ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 102.

⁹ Campb. Chart. (B.M.), xxv, 21.

¹⁰ Ibid. xxvii, 21.

¹¹ Ibid. xiv, 4; *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Com.), 80.

¹² *Arch. Cant.* xiii, 365-7.

¹³ Add. Chart. 40790.

¹⁴ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley MSS.* 60.

¹⁵ Ibid. 45.

¹⁶ Ibid. 82.

¹⁷ *Curia Regis* R. v, 203. The *terras perjuratae* seem to have been in the neighbourhood of Jury's Gut; the origin of the name is unknown.

¹⁸ Campb. Chart. (B.M.), xxvii, 2.

¹⁹ Hales MS. (Lincoln's Inn), 87, fol. 50v. Cf. Anct. D. (P.R.O.), B. 2965, B. 2974.

²⁰ Campb. Chart. (B.M.), xxvi, 11.

²¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1307-13, p. 159.

²² Campb. Chart. (B.M.), xxvii, 13, 23.

²³ Rental, vol. 25, at Canterbury: *ex inf.*

Dr. Gordon Ward, F.S.A.

²⁴ Spec. Com. 2917.

²⁵ Add. MS. 6343, fol. 347.

²⁶ Ibid. 39379, fol. 210.

²⁷ Harris, *Hist. of Kent*, 55.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 3.

³⁰ *Cal. Pat.* 1343-5, p. 222; 1388-92 p. 412.

³¹ *Proc. Brit. Arch. Assoc., Canterbury*, 170. We are indebted to Dr. Gordon Ward for this reference.

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are Newington by Hythe, Brenzett, and Broomhill, and Cooper alleges that Broomhill was 'called in old deeds "Alcotch"',¹ but unfortunately gives no evidence for his statement. On the death of the Abbess Catherine the English possessions of the abbey were seized by Henry V,² and in 1439 these, including the rectory and advowson of Broomhill, were granted to John Kemp, Archbishop of York, for the endowment of the college which he was founding at Wye.³ A vicar was maintained at Broomhill until about 1524, when inroads of the sea had reduced the vicar's portion almost to nothing and divine service had ceased; the vicarial tithes were therefore united to the rectorial, which were already appropriated to the college of Wye.⁴

On the suppression of the college the *RECTORIAL* rectory was granted, in March 1545, to Walter Bucler, the Queen's secretary,⁵ who next year transferred it to Maurice Denys and Elizabeth his wife.⁶ In 1573 Joan Richardes, widow, and Stephen Richardes sold it to William Lovelace.⁷ He sold it in 1592 to Thomas Wylde and Elizabeth his wife.⁸ After the death of Thomas Wylde on 16 December 1596 it was probably sold in accordance with his will.⁹ A century later it had evidently been divided between co-heirs, one-sixth being sold in 1696 by William Coningsby, clerk, and Dorothy his wife to James Cobham, clerk;¹⁰ another sixth in 1700 by John

Penhalls and Cecily his wife to William Willis;¹¹ and one fifth in 1779 by Thomas Eyre and Ann his wife to James Baldwin.¹² Apparently the whole was acquired by George Stringer and Lucy his wife, as they sold the rectory of Broomhill with all the tithes to Thomas Shipden in 1812.¹³

A dispute between the Abbot of Battle and Stephen vicar of Fairlight concerning tithes in the marshes of Grikes and Swanemere, on the western bounds of Broomhill, was referred to arbitrators, probably about 1200. It was decided that Battle should found a chapel in the marsh, which should have all parochial rights and half the tithes of sheaves from the tenants of the marsh, the other half going to the monks, with all the tithes of their demesne land, when inclosed. The vicars of Fairlight should serve the chapel one day a week until the tithes and population justified more frequent service. The abbey should provide the site for the chapel and cemetery and one Flemish acre of land adjoining. Until it was consecrated, the dead might be buried anywhere in the diocese except at Fairlight.¹⁴ This indicates that this part of Broomhill was then considered to be in the diocese of Chichester and parochially, as well as manorially, part of Fairlight, but the only evidence that any such chapel was actually built is a reference to 'the chapel of Broomhill' in a 13th-century charter,¹⁵ and this may refer to the church.

EAST GULDEFORD

Newgulford, Guldefordsynnyng (xvi cent.).

The parish of East Guldeford has an area of 2,831 acres, of which 16 are water. It lies in Romney Marsh, and is a flat expanse little above sea-level, crossed by a network of ditches. There are a few farms, and the chief crop grown is wheat, but there is a great deal of pasture land. The village is reached by a modern road running east out of Rye, and with the church is situated near the railway line from Rye to Ashford, which runs through the western part of the parish. The nearest station is Rye, 1½ miles distant. The parish boundary takes in the River Rother for a short distance in the extreme west, opposite Saltcote Place, Playden. The Kent Ditch forms the eastern boundary of the parish, and the White Kemp sewer the northern. On the south is the North Point sewer, Coneybanks wall, Wainway wall, and other embankments.

The soil is loamy and the subsoil shingle.

The Mount, about 150 yards west of the church, is of timber-framing underbuilt with brick and stone. The plan consists of two parallel blocks and also a small central wing on the north side. It is probable that the front (south) block dates from the 15th or early 16th century and that the back block and small north wing are Elizabethan. The central chimney-stack was inserted in the front block probably at a little later date. The house has been recently restored and the timbers exposed: many of the studs in the walls had decayed and were replaced by material obtained by the owner from old ships' timbers. Some of the original curved struts remain in the front and side walls. The small north wing is of thinner timbers than the other walls

and has a half-hipped north gable. The main entrance in the middle of the south front has an old oak Tudor arch with sunk spandrels. Most of the windows are modern. The lower rooms have open-timbered ceilings with stop-chamfered main beams. The central chimney-stack in the front block has a wide fire-place to the easternmost room only. The parallel north block has two rooms divided by a central chimney-stack and both have wide fire-places and staircases, one from each room. The west room is lined with late-16th-century paneling and has a late-17th-century overmantel carved with jewel ornament. Against the ceiling on the east wall are the reset remains of a carved inscription reading: *BVR WRATH AND HASTI: COMOYNES IS . . . THE KYNGES HONO CRASE AND PROSPERITE*. The small back room is plastered. In this wing were discovered fragmentary remains of Elizabethan foliated wall-paintings, now cut out and remounted in loose frames.

The upper rooms have plastered ceilings, excepting the easternmost room of the front block, which is open to the roof-space and retains one original roof-truss with an octagonal king-post carrying 'four-way' struts of ogee form below a collar-beam, &c., and standing on a chamfered tie-beam. The remainder of the roof above the ceilings appears to be of 18th-century or later reconstruction. Re-used in the back part of the upper story are several moulded beams and posts in the ceilings.

Another house just south-west of the church may be of the 17th century. The lower story has walls of stone and brick; the upper story is weather-boarded. The north-east end of the front is gabled, and the roof is tiled.

¹ *Hist. of Winchelsea*, 5.

² *Cal. Pat.* 1422-9, p. 468.

³ *Ibid.* 1436-41, p. 312.

⁴ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* ix, 120.

⁵ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xx, pt. 1, 465(37).

⁶ *Ibid.* xxi, pt. 2, p. 248.

⁷ Feet of F. Div. Co. Mich. 15-16 Eliz.

⁸ *Ibid.* Mich. 34-5 Eliz.

⁹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxlviii, 28.

¹⁰ Feet of F. Div. Co. Mich. 8 Will. III.

¹¹ *Ibid.* Trin. 12 Will. III.

¹² *Ibid.* Trin. 19 Geo. III.

¹³ *Ibid.* Mich. 52 Geo. III.

¹⁴ Hales MS. (Lincoln's Inn) 87, fol. 29.

¹⁵ Campb. Chart. (B.M.), xxvii, 18.

There is no manor, the parish being formed from estates held by the Guldeford family (originally of Hempsted in Benenden, Kent) and taken mainly from Playden parish. In 1478 the Abbot of Robertsbridge granted to Richard Guldeford 1,300 acres of salt marsh in the parishes of Playden, Iden, and Broomhill, to hold by fealty and rent of 12*d.* yearly.¹ In 1497 a grant of a large tract of 3,000 acres in this neighbourhood is recorded,² and Sir Richard died in 1506 seised of 6 messuages, 1 mill, and 1,800 acres of marsh in this parish, then for the first time called 'Newguldford', and held in the same way.³ His son Edward succeeded, and was shortly afterwards appointed Commissioner of Sewers for the district between Newenden, Kent, and the marsh called Guldefordsynnyng.⁴ Edward's son Richard died without issue,⁵ and his daughter and heir Jane married Sir John Dudley. In 1535 Sir John and Jane made an agreement with Cornelis van der Dylft of Barrowe (Bergen) in Brabant by which he was to 'inne shytt and enclose agenst the see' all the lands late called Guldefords Marsh, then overflowed by the sea. For this he was to have either £2,000 or half the lands so recovered, the division being made by two persons nominated by the Lord Chancellor.⁶ Sir John and Jane, with the assent of her cousin John son of George Guldeford sold the estate, on this occasion referred to as a manor, to Thomas Lord Cromwell in 1539.⁷ After his attainder all the East Guldeford lands were granted by the king in 1552 to Sir John Guldeford, Jane's cousin and grandson of the original Richard, to hold by the $\frac{1}{16}$ th part of a knight's fee and 100 marks yearly.⁸ Sir John was sheriff of Sussex in 1552 and died in 1565, leaving two-thirds of the estates to his second wife Mary for her life.⁹ His son Sir Thomas died in 1575 leaving a son Henry, under age,¹⁰ who was still holding the estates in 1625.¹¹ They passed in succession to Henry's son and grandson Edward Guldeford,¹² and on the latter's death in 1678¹³ to his son Robert, who was made a baronet in 1686.¹⁴ Sir Robert, however, fell heavily into debt, leased his East Guldeford estates in 1697 to Jeremiah Curteis,¹⁵ and in 1714 to Philipps Gybbon.¹⁶ He is said to have sold all his estates in Kent and Sussex through trustees in 1718,¹⁷ and East Guldeford was probably sold to the Jeremiah Curteis who had a lease of it in 1697, for a later Jeremiah Curteis, who died in 1806, had a daughter Catherine Sarah, who married John Luxford of Higham, grandfather of the present owner, John Stewart Odiarne Robertson-Luxford, esq., of Higham House, Robertsbridge.¹⁸ Other land in the parish is owned by the Trustees of Mr. F. Austin.



GULDEFORD. *Or a saltire between four martlets sable.*

The inhabitants of Rye complained in 1719 that Sir Robert Guldeford had built a wall or dam at Camber Point to the final ruination of their port, recalling how his ancestors had begun the process, and had 'inned' three great creeks between 1542 and 1562. In the latter year they had made petition that these creeks should be opened again, as their 'inning' was causing the decay of Rye haven, but nothing was done, so that, as they affirmed, in 187 years 'Le Camber' had been ruined and a new church and parish erected on their ill-gotten gains.¹⁹

A ferry over the Rother, called Saltcote Ferry, went with the estates, though partly in Playden parish. It was often leased with the advowson of the church,²⁰ possibly as a necessary part of the approach to it.

In 1499 a faculty was granted to Sir Richard Guldeford to build a church in Guylforde Innyng, formerly Brunchings, which had been submerged for 300 years and lately recovered by him at his own expense,²¹ and the church was consecrated in 1505 and made into a parish church.²²

The church of *ST. MARY*²³ forms an *CHURCH* oblong hall, 61 ft. 6 in. in length and 26 ft.

3 in. in width internally, without any structural division between the nave and chancel. It is built of bricks laid in English bond and has four buttresses on each of the north and south sides, with two at the eastern corners. At the east end there are two buttresses added in the 18th century between the corner buttresses and the east window. This window is of four lights, formed by three mullions which intersect to form six diamond-shaped tracery lights. Running all round the building and the original buttresses, at a height of about 3 ft., is a string-course formed of three courses of moulded bricks. The north and south sides of the church are each divided into three bays, in each of which there is a three-light window, its two brick mullions running straight up to the brick containing arch. The walls, which are about 3 ft. thick, are mainly covered with cement, especially on the south side. At the west end is a pointed doorway, within a pointed brick arch, plainly chamfered, and on each side of the door is a buttress, which is probably an 18th-century addition. The church is roofed by a double roof with a valley between, hipped at the east and west ends. This was formerly supported on a row of four upright timber posts along the middle of the church. These have been removed and four steel girders inserted to support the two roofs.

The interior is very plain. At the east end there is a stone corbel on each side of the altar and another on each of the north and south walls about 3 ft. from the east end. On the under side of these corbels are carved figures of angels bearing blank shields. The walls of the sanctuary are painted with figures of angels, which may be ancient. On the south side under the easternmost

¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1476-85, p. 228.

² *Ibid.* 1494-1509, p. 110.

³ *Chan. Inq.* p.m. (Ser. 2), xxi, 18.

⁴ *L. and P. Hen. VIII.* i, 64, g. 132 (33).

⁵ For pedigree of Guldeford see *Hasted's Kent*, iii, 82-3.

⁶ *Anct. D.* (P.R.O.), D. 9921.

⁷ Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 30 Hen. VIII; Close, 30 Hen. VIII, pt. 7, nos. 51 and 57; *L. and P. Hen. VIII.* xiv (1), 9.

⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1550-3, p. 267; *Acts of P.C.* 1552-4, p. 134.

⁹ *Chan. Inq.* p.m. (Ser. 2), cxli, 15.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* clxxii, 113a.

¹¹ *Pat. R.* 43 Eliz. pt. 5; Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 22 Jas. I.

¹² *Recov. R.* Trin. 1657, ro. 19; Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 1658; *ibid.* Trin. 1659.

¹³ *Hasted's Kent*, iii, 83.

¹⁴ *G.E.C. Complete Baronetage*; Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 1 Will. and Mary.

¹⁵ Deed in Sale Catalogue of F. Marcham.

¹⁶ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 12 Anne.

¹⁷ *Hasted's Kent*, iii, 83.

¹⁸ Burke, *Landed Gentry*.

¹⁹ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 503, quoting Burrell MSS.

²⁰ *Pat. R.* 8 Jas. I, pt. 56; Feet of F.

Suss. Trin. 1 Will. and Mary, &c. The ferry was 'from the bottom of New England Lane, formerly Saltcote, to a landing stage not far from Mr. Cook's house near East Guldeford Church': Mr. L. A. Vidler.

²¹ *Cal. Parker MSS. C.C.C.C.* no. 170, fol. 151.

²² Register of Bp. Fitzjames (fol. 43) quoted in *Place-Names of Sussex*, ii, 530.

²³ The earlier invocation seems to have been Holy Trinity, as it is so called in 1543: Add. MS. 394053, fol. 44, quoting Ep. Reg. Day.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

window is an arched recess, with a shelf but no bowl or indication of a piscina. There is a 'three-decker' pulpit on the south side, and the deal pews may date from the 18th century. On the north side, at the west end, a space is screened off as a vestry, and opposite to this on the south side is a square font of Purbeck or Sussex marble on a modern pedestal. This font is of 12th-century type and appears to have been supported originally by a central pillar and four detached shafts.

There is a small bell-cote above the western entrance; the bell (dated 1740) is broken and stands on the floor.¹

The plate consists of a silver cup (1728) and paten (1891).

On a stone attached to the north wall of the church are the Guldeford arms quartered with those of Halden, viz. 1 and 4 or a saltire between 4 martlets sable, 2 and 3 argent a chief sable over all a bend engrailed gules

(*Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxxviii, p. 218). There is a tablet to Stephen Jewhurst (1782) and a painted royal coat of arms temp. George IV.

The advowson remained with the *ADVOUSON* Guldeford family until 1689, but in 1610 seems to have been granted for a term to Joseph Sidonham,² and leased on various occasions.³ In 1689 Sir Robert Guldeford conveyed it to Richard Cooke.⁴ In 1694 presentation was made by Thomas Frewen and William Boys, in 1699 by Sir George Choute, in 1706 by Edward Symes, in 1736 by William Dyne, and in 1753 by Robert Margerison.⁵ In 1792 the rectory and tithes were conveyed by John Calland to Thomas Lamb,⁶ and passed with those of Playden (q.v.), to which the living was joined late in the 18th century. It is now in the gift of Capt. H. S. Hurrell.

IDEN

Idene (xi cent.); Ydenne.

The parish of Iden has an area of 2,969 acres, 69 of these being water. The elevation is low, rising, however, to 100 ft. in the centre of the parish. The Kent Ditch forms the northern boundary. A road running north from Rye and Playden into Kent is crossed by another in the centre of the village, at the west end of which is the church, and the rectory is in the park beyond it. Beyond the park a lane turns north, with branches to Baron's Grange, and north-west to Moat Farm and the site of the Moat manor. There is a windmill where the road enters the park on the south. From the village the road runs north past Oxenbridge, and branches east to Thornsedale. Bosney lies to the east of the village.

Oxenbridge is a house of the early 15th century. It had a 'hall-place' facing south-east, of 15 ft. and 6 ft. bays, with a south-west solar wing and north-east buttery wing. The wings have jettied upper stories in front. The 'screens-passage' in the buttery-wing retains the original arched doorway in the back wall. The front has its timbers concealed by plaster, but curved brackets are seen under the upper stories and under the eaves of the hall. The north-east side is weather-boarded. The south-west side shows some of its framing, covered by an extension (of whitened brick) which is said to have been formerly a pottery. A chimney-stack and floors were inserted in the hall in the 16th century: a great fire-place has a moulded and arched oak lintel. The original moulded wall-beam of the hall remains in its north-east wall and there is another in the side wall of the screens-passage. The original hall roof remains *in situ* with its smoke-blackened timbers concealed above the later ceilings. It has an octagonal king-post with a moulded capital and base and 'four-way' struts; the moulded tie-beam is highly cambered, but its curved braces have been removed. The roof is thatched and has hipped ends: the framing above the ends has been altered for it. The framing over the end walls of

the hall, with strutted king-posts, retains much of the old plaster infilling with combed ornament. The windows have mostly been enlarged, but in the front wall is a small square space (filled in and not visible externally) which, it is suggested, was used as a 'coffin-window'. If so, it must have been inserted after the 16th-century floors.

A thatched cottage just north of the church is probably of early-16th-century date and retains a Tudor arched doorway in the front. The jettied upper story is weather-boarded, but a little of the original studding is exposed. There are the usual wide fire-place and open-timbered ceilings: the plain central chimney-stack is of 17th-century bricks. Two thatched cottages and a partly timber-framed farmhouse on the Playden road also have 17th-century chimneys.

In the most easterly part of the parish the Royal Military Canal branches off from the River Rother. Beyond the Canal is Five Watering Sewer, Willow-House Farm, and the railway from Hastings to Ashford. The nearest station, however, is Rye, 2½ miles south. There is a Methodist chapel in the village. The land is mainly pasture, and the soil loamy, with a subsoil of sand and clay.

The manor of *IDEN* was held in the *MANORS* time of Edward the Confessor by Ednod, for 3 virgates. In 1086 2 of these virgates were held by Lewin and 1 by Geoffrey, under Count Robert of Eu.⁷ The overlordship follows the descent of the rape until 1287, after which Iden was held in chief, at first for rent and later for ¾ of a fee, or for 1/7 part and ½ of a knight's fee.⁸ In 1271 John Tregoz and Mabel his wife obtained a grant of free warren in their demesne lands,⁹ and in 1285 they settled the manor on their daughter Sybil and her husband William de Grandison,¹⁰ who two years later surrendered it to the king in exchange for other manors.¹¹ In 1289 Robert Paulin was appointed custodian,¹² and in 1298 the manor was granted to him for life, with the exception of the park

¹ Reputed to be the fourth bell from Playden Church, given after it was cracked: *ex inf.* Mr. L. A. Vidler, to whom we are also indebted for a description of the plate.

² Pat. R. 8 Jas. I, pt. 56.

³ Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 22 Jas. I; Recov. R. Trin. 1657, ro. 19; Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 1658; Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 1659.

⁴ Recov. R. Trin. 1 Will. and Mary, ro.

148; Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 1 Will. and Mary.

⁵ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

⁶ Feet of F. (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix), 239.

⁷ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 405b.

⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1292-1301, p. 341; *ibid.* 1330-4, p. 216; *ibid.* 1370-4, p. 71; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, 232; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), clxxix, 73.

⁹ *Cal. Chart. R.* 1257-1300, p. 169. There is mention of Sir John Tregoz, elder and younger, before 1269: *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Com.), 113.

¹⁰ Feet of F. Div. Co. 13 Edw. I, no. 22.

¹¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1334-8, p. 105; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 24 Edw. I, 67.

¹² *Cal. Pat.* 1281-92, p. 314.



IDEN: OXENBRIDGE, FROM THE SOUTH



IDEN: OXENBRIDGE, FROM THE NORTH-WEST

and heronry, which the king kept in his own hands, but Robert was to have sufficient pasture in the park for the oxen and horses of his plough teams. He was to render the usual services, with 2½ lb. of pepper, 1½ lb. of cummin, and a rent of 10s. a year.¹ The king's park is mentioned in 1316, when certain persons hunted there and carried away deer,² but is not heard of again.

In 1312 Iden was granted for life to John de Elsefeld,³ but in 1317 it was in the possession of Nicholas de la Beche of Old Court (q.v.), who in that year bought the entire wood of the manor (probably including the park) for 100 marks.⁴ In the following year he received a grant of free warren.⁵ Nicholas was still holding the ¾ fee in 1343, but died in 1345.⁶ He had settled this manor on himself and his wife Margery, who survived him, with remainder to his niece Isabel, formerly wife of John de Langford but then wife of William Fitz Elys.⁷ Isabel's two sons by her first husband died without issue, and she and William Fitz Elys sold the manor in 1362 to Simon Joce.⁸ In 1417 John Fitz Elys claimed the manor as the heir of Nicholas de la Beche,⁹ but evidently without success. In 1371 William Taylour of Rye was enfeoffed of half the manor by Alice, sister and heir of Simon Joce,¹⁰ and in 1377-8 Thomas Taylour released to his brother William those lands in Iden which his father William had given him.¹¹ Thomas and William later sold the manor to Sir Edward Dalyngridge.¹² Sir Edward's son John held the manor¹³ but died without issue, and his lands passed by will to his widow Alice, who later married Sir Thomas Boteler, and after her death in 1443¹⁴ to Philippe daughter of Walter Dalyngridge, brother of Sir Edward.¹⁵ Philippe married Sir Thomas Lewknor, and her estates, which included Bodiam Castle (q.v.), descended in his family. In 1532 Sir Roger Lewknor, his great-grandson,¹⁶ settled Iden and other estates on his daughter and heir Joan (or Jane) widow of Arthur Poole, and her husband Sir William Barentyne. After the death of Sir Roger in 1543, Iden passed to Sir William Barentyne and his son Drew after him.¹⁷ Drew Barentyne in 1560 sold it to Godard Foster, who died seised of it in 1577.¹⁸ From his son Thomas Foster, who died in 1605, it descended to John son of Thomas,¹⁹ and to Thomas son of John in 1632. This last Thomas was under age at the time of his father's death, and his elder sister Mary was left executrix.²⁰ He received the manor in 1638.²¹ The Fosters are said to have sold the manor in the 18th century to Ralph Norton,²² whose daughter Catherine

held it in 1751. She and her husband Thomas Owens held courts there in 1754 and 1768, and Catherine as a widow from 1773 to 1788.²³ In 1797 and 1805 it was in the hands of John Norton and Mary his wife,²⁴ and in 1835 was owned by Dr. Lamb.²⁵ Mr. Charles Joseph James Bolton-Clark died seised of the manors of Iden and Mote in August 1932 and was succeeded by his nephew, Mr. John Percival Bolton-Clark. View of frankpledge, courts leet and courts baron, and free fisheries are mentioned in 1805.²⁶

A rent of £8 from the manor of Iden was granted by Edward II to Edmund Earl of Kent, in payment of debts owing to him from Edward I, and was confirmed by Edward III in 1327.²⁷ Edmund died in 1330 leaving a son John under age, and during his minority the rent was granted to various persons. John de Warenne, Earl of Surrey, received it in 1330,²⁸ but in 1331 it was in the hands of Nicholas de la Beche, lord of Iden manor, and was also granted to John de Bures during the minority of the heir,²⁹ and in 1335 Nicholas had it once more.³⁰ From John Earl of Kent it passed in 1352 to his sister Joan and her husband Thomas Holland.³¹ It was granted to the mayor and bailiffs of Rye, for purposes of repair, in 1372 for 3 years,³² but was inherited by Thomas Holland, Earl of Kent, son of the above, in 1385.³³ At his death in 1397 it passed to his widow Alice and their son Thomas in shares,³⁴ but she survived him, and died in 1416 leaving a number of daughters.³⁵ The rent appears successively in the possession of her daughter Joan Duchess of York,³⁶ John Duke of Somerset, son of her daughter Margaret,³⁷ and then of Ralph Nevill, Earl of Westmorland, son of her daughter Elizabeth.³⁸ After the death of Ralph in 1484 it passed to his brother's family, and in 1556 half of it was conveyed by Henry Earl of Westmorland to Queen Mary.³⁹ Presumably the other half also returned to the crown.

LEIGH manor was held for one knight's fee, of the Lord of the Rape.⁴⁰ In 1166 one fee in the rape, probably this one, was held by Daniel de Crevequer, son of Robert, and the same fee was held in 1210-12 by Daniel's son Robert, and by Hamon de Crevequer in 1242-3.⁴¹ In 1284 Hamon's grandson Robert remitted the manor of La Leye to Hamon de Crevequer,⁴² who conveyed the reversion of the manor to Robert de Passeley and his son Edmund for £23 rent and a rose at midsummer during his lifetime,⁴³ but in 1298 Alice, widow of Hamon, claimed a third part in dower from Edmund de Passeley.⁴⁴ In the same year Edmund

¹ Ibid. 1292-1301, p. 341.

² Ibid. 1313-17, p. 499. The nearest heronry in 1905 was in Beckley (q.v.).

³ Ibid. 1307-13, p. 500.

⁴ Ibid. 1317-21, p. 59.

⁵ *Cal. Chart. R.* iii, 392.

⁶ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, 232; *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, no. 1858.

⁷ Add. MS. 39374, fol. 189, quoting De Banco R. East. 36 Edw. III, m. 129.

⁸ Ibid.; *Cal. Pat.* 1361-4, p. 169.

⁹ Wrottesley, *Ped. from Plea Rolls*, 293-4, quoting De Banco R. Trin. 5 Hen. V, m. 438, makes Margery, Isabel's daughter, grandmother of this John Fitz Elys.

¹⁰ *Cal. Pat.* 1370-4, p. 71.

¹¹ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* v, 511.

¹² *Cal. Pat.* 1381-5, p. 273.

¹³ *Cal. Close*, 1392-6, p. 499. In the Subsidy Roll of 1411-12 it is said to have been held by Richard Prat: *Suss. Arch. Coll.* x, 144.

¹⁴ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 21 Hen. VI, no. 52.

¹⁵ Curzon, *Bodiam Castle*, 27-30.

¹⁶ *Visit. Sussex*, p. 25; Feet of F. Div. Co. Mich. 30 Hen. VIII.

¹⁷ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lxxv, 48; *Recov. R. Mich.* 30 Hen. VIII, ro. 450.

¹⁸ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 3/4 Eliz.; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), clxxix, 73.

¹⁹ Ibid. cclxxxix, 42; Fine R. 5 Jas. I, pt. 2, no. 31.

²⁰ *Inquisitions* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xiv), no. 416.

²¹ Fine R. 14 Chas. I, pt. 3, no. 17.

²² C. Dawson, *Hastings Castle*.

²³ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 570; Feet of F. (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix), 238.

²⁴ *Recov. R. East.* 37 Geo. III, ro. 303; *ibid.* Mich. 46 Geo. III, ro. 59; Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 46 Geo. III.

²⁵ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 504.

²⁶ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 46 Geo. III.

²⁷ *Cal. Chart. R.* iv, 3.

²⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1327-30, p. 517.

²⁹ Ibid. 1330-4, p. 221.

³⁰ Ibid. 1334-8, p. 163.

³¹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 26 Edw. III (1st nos.), 54; *ibid.* 35 Edw. III, pt. i, 104.

³² *Cal. Pat.* 1370-4, p. 203.

³³ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 9 Rich. II, 54; *Cal. Close*, 1385-9, p. 38.

³⁴ Ibid. 1396-9, pp. 248, 256, 260; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 20 Rich. II, no. 30.

³⁵ Ibid. 4 Hen. V, no. 51.

³⁶ Ibid. 12 Hen. VI, no. 43.

³⁷ Ibid. 22 Hen. VI, no. 19.

³⁸ Ibid. 2 Rich. III, no. 14.

³⁹ Feet of F. Div. Co. East. 2-3 Phil. & Mary.

⁴⁰ Lea Farm is now in Rye Foreign, but the manor is always spoken of as in Iden.

⁴¹ *Red Bk. Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), i, 203, ii, 554; *Cal. Chart. R.* v, 203; *Bk. of Facs.* 692.

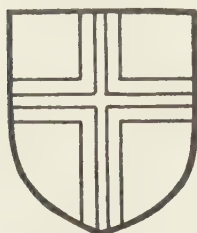
⁴² Add. MS. 39373, fols. 79, 82.

⁴³ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* vii, no. 1038.

⁴⁴ Ibid. no. 1126.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

obtained a grant of free warren in Leigh,¹ and in 1318 he seems to have moved the manor-house to the moated site from which it derived its alternative title of 'La Mote'. He was murdered in 1326 or 1327,² and was succeeded by Thomas, his son by Margaret, formerly widow of William de Basyng, who survived him. Margaret and Thomas were sued in 1329 by John son of Sir Edmund by a previous wife, for tenements, including 3 mills,



CREVEQUER. Or a cross voided gules.



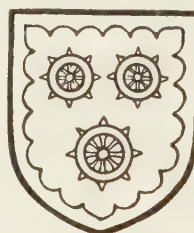
PASSELEY. Purple alion or crowned Argent.

which are specifically stated to have then constituted the manor of La Leigh.³ In 1428 the heirs of Thomas de Passeley held the knight's fee of Leigh, one-third being in demesne, and the remainder divided among unnamed tenants.⁴ The portion held in demesne probably became distinguished as the manor of the Moat (q.v.); another part seems to be the third part of the manor of Leigh which John and Isabel Warner conveyed in 1438 to Simon Cheyne and others. Simon's son William Cheyne died in 1487 in possession of the manor.⁵ Francis, his son and heir, was a minor at the time of his father's death, and his uncle Sir John Cheyne took the profits until he was 17. Francis, however, died childless, and his half-brother, Sir Thomas Cheyne, K.G., Warden of the Cinque Ports, succeeded.⁶ The latter, however, released Leigh to the king in 1537 in exchange for other lands.⁷ Later the manor was leased to John Sommer, who bequeathed it to his wife Marten and his daughters, Mary the wife of Thomas Penistone, and Frances wife of James Cromer. In 1598, after the death of Frances, James Cromer brought a suit in favour of their son Francis against Mary and Thomas Penistone, who, however, seem to have obtained a grant of the manor.⁸ In 1608 it was claimed by Sir Alexander Temple, to whom it was ultimately conveyed in 1611-12. He restored it to Sir Thomas Penistone, bart., son of the above,⁹ who sold Leigh in 1617 to Richard Earl of Dorset,¹⁰ who in turn conveyed it to Dame Elizabeth Craven.¹¹ Her heir, William Earl of Craven, sold the manor to Sir George Whitmore, and he to Sir Edward and Sir John Hales in 1638-9. Ralph Freke owned it in 1661.¹² His daughter Cecily married Sir George Chute, who still owned it in 1713,¹³

but it was subsequently purchased by a Mr. Huson, who devised it to John Viny. Joseph and Elizabeth Viny owned it in 1752, and in 1765 the widow Elizabeth, with Thomas Viny and a number of others, possibly her married daughters, held it, and 3 years later sold it to Jeremiah Curteis of Rye.¹⁴ After this the manor seems to have become merged in the estates of the Curteis family.

BARON'S GRANGE¹⁵ is a small estate, now a farm, first mentioned among the lands of William Cheyne in 1499.¹⁶ It remained attached to the manor of Leigh, which was therefore sometimes called Leigh-Grange,¹⁷ the descent of which it follows (see above). The present owner is Mr. Clement Raymus, who also owns Moat Farm.

The manor of **MOAT** or **LA MOTE** first appears in 1318, when Sir Edmund de Passeley, owner of Leigh, received licence to crenellate his dwelling-place of La Mote.¹⁸ In 1339 it was held by his widow Margaret.¹⁹ The manor descended successively to his sons Thomas, Edmund, and Robert. The last had a grandson Robert.²⁰ In 1411 William Swynbourne held one-third of it, and William Marchant and William Marney held another third.²¹ Swynbourne had married Robert's widow Philippe, who died in 1420 seized of a third of the manor held in dower.²² Sir John Passeley, eldest son of Robert, died seized of the whole manor in 1453,²³ and his son John conveyed it in 1460 to John Scott.²⁴ From Sir John Scott it passed in 1486 to his son William,²⁵ whose grandson William died in 1585,²⁶ and his widow Mary held it during the life of her son William, who died in 1589.²⁷ William's widow Elizabeth was holding it in 1605,²⁸ but their son William was in possession in



SCOTT. Argent three catherine wheels sable in a border engrailed gules.



POWELL. Gules a lion or looking backwards.

1620 and in 1646.²⁹ He seems to have conveyed it before 1656 to Sir Nathaniel Powell,³⁰ who held courts there between 1661 and 1673. Sir Nathaniel was succeeded in 1674-5 by his son of the same name, whose son Barnham evidently had Moat during his father's lifetime, probably as a marriage settlement, for he held a court there in 1686 and his widow in 1703.³¹ Barnham's second son Christopher ultimately inherited the

¹ *Cal. Chart. R.* ii, 474.

² *Controlment R.* i, m. 53 d.

³ Add. MS. 39374, fol. 16, quoting De Banco R. Mich. 3 Edw. III, m. 221.

⁴ *Feud. Aids*, v, 151.

⁵ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxiii (*Fines*), no. 3029; *ibid.* xiv, no. 240; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxx, 48.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, ii, g. 1311 (16).

⁸ *Ct. of Req.* 40 Eliz. 66 (100); Add. MS. 5679, fol. 662.

⁹ *Ibid.*; Collins, *Baronetage*, 357.

¹⁰ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix (*Fines*).

¹¹ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 662.

¹² *Ibid.*; Feet of F. *Suss. East.* 14 Chas. II.

¹³ *Ibid.*; *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 268.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ Beryngrange (xv cent.); Barnegraunge (xvi cent.).

¹⁶ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xiv, 35.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* xix, 268.

¹⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1317-21, p. 255. The actual licence is now in the Hastings Museum. There is an illustration of it in Holloway's *Hist. of Romney Marsh*.

¹⁹ *Coll. Topog. et Gen.* vii, 118.

²⁰ Wrottesley, *Ped. from Plea R.* 349.

²¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* x, 144.

²² *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 8 Hen. V, no. 40 (file 277).

²³ *Ibid.* 31 Hen. VI, no. 26.

²⁴ Feet of F. *Suss. Mich.* 39 Hen. VI.

²⁵ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xiv, no. 914.

²⁶ *Ibid.* xxxiii, no. 91. In 1553 and again in 1640 the manor is described as 'the manors of Moate, River and Float' (*ibid.* xx, 309), but this multiple, or alternative, designation seems to have no significance.

²⁷ *Chan. Inq.* p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxxv, 54.

²⁸ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxiii, no. 202.

²⁹ Feet of F. *Suss. East.* 18 Jas. I; *ibid.* Mich. 22 Chas. I.

³⁰ *Parl. Survey Suss.* p. 140, taken in 1656, says that the assigns of Nath: Powell were in occupation of the farmhouse then. The grant to him in 1668 may have been the falling in of a lease to William Scott: *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xx, 309.

³¹ G.E.C. *Complete Baronetage*, iii, 194; Add. MS. 5680, fol. 61.

baronetcy in 1708 and died in 1742. His widow's trustees sold the manor to Edward and Jeremiah Curteis, from whom it was acquired about 1769 by Mrs. Catherine Owens (*née* Norton) of Iden Manor.¹ Upon her death it passed to John Bradbury, who took the name of Norton, who was holding it in 1797² and in 1805. Before 1835, however, it had been acquired by Mr. T. Pix.³ His son Thomas Smith Pix died, at the age of 96, in 1900, and the manor was put up for sale in 1919, at which time all the land was customary freehold, held by eleven tenants.⁴

BONESMARSH or **POPESMARSH** was a small estate apparently held at one time by the abbey of Westminster, as in 1485, when John Tryser and Agnes conveyed 5 marks rent to John Pope, warranty was given against the abbots.⁵ It was subsequently held as a manor by the Michelbourne family, John Michelbourne possessing it in 1552 or 1553.⁶ John's son Thomas⁷ died holding it in 1582, of the manor of Morley in Northiam,⁸ and it passed to his son Laurence, who conveyed his tenements in Iden to another Thomas Michelbourne in 1605.⁹ Thomas sold Bonesmarsh in

1641 to William Burgis,¹⁰ and he conveyed it in 1653 to Sir Thomas Parker.¹¹ In 1737 Samuel Standen leased it for 99 years to Henry Montague,¹² but in 1790 it was owned by William Blackman.¹³

The tithes of **BOSNEY**¹⁴ were granted by Robert Count of Eu to the canons of St. Mary, Hastings, and confirmed to them by his grandson Henry in the 12th century.¹⁵ A Ralph de Bosene is mentioned in 1296, and Thomas de Bosene in 1327.¹⁶ Previous to 1304 Adam de Bosene held a marsh. In 1304 William de Kechenore granted a moiety of a marsh called Lewdy-mers in Iden, near the land of Ralph Bosene, which he had acquired from Adam de Bosene, to Thomas Dyges,¹⁷ who sold the land in 1330 to Stephen atte Legh.¹⁸

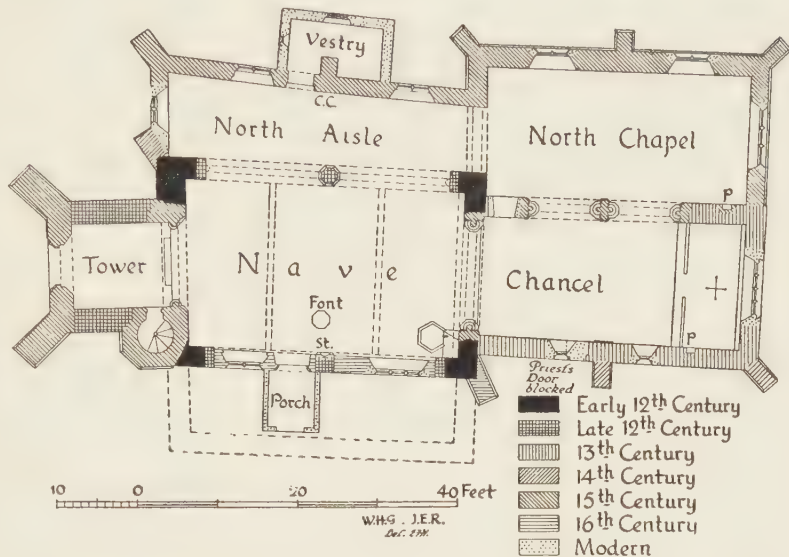
The church of **ALL SAINTS** consists of **CHURCH** a chancel, north chapel, nave, north aisle, north vestry, south porch, and west tower.

The nave probably belongs to the early part of the 12th century, but no detail remains to indicate its precise date. North and south aisles were added to the nave about 1130 and the chancel was rebuilt in the 13th century. Early in the 15th century the north chapel was built, the north aisle widened, and the tower largely rebuilt: the nave was also reroofed at the same time. In the 16th century the south aisle was destroyed and the arches of the south arcade were

blocked, a doorway and two windows being inserted in the infilling. The vestry and the south porch are modern.

The only remaining features of the 13th century in the chancel are the internal jambs of one of the windows and the priest's doorway, both in the south wall. The east window, of four lights with 'perpendicular' tracery in a pointed head, is modern. In the north wall is an arcade of two pointed arches, of about 1400. It is

PARISH CHURCH of ALL SAINTS IDEN



of two orders, the outer continued down the jambs and the inner supported on engaged shafts with moulded capitals and bases. The wall west of the arcade is pierced by a modern opening with a trefoiled head. In the south wall are two modern single-light windows. These probably occupy the positions of 13th-century lancets and some of the original internal jamb stones are retained in the eastern light. The priest's doorway is below the western window and can only be seen outside. At the east end of this wall is a 14th-century piscina with a pointed head cut with a filleted edge roll which falls on the sill without stops. The bowl is circular and is complete, but the sill, which projected beyond the bowl, is cut off flush with the wall. The chancel arch, about 1420, is pointed and of two moulded orders, the outer continuous and the inner supported on engaged shafts with moulded capitals and modern bases.

The north chapel has a pointed east window of three lights and two windows, each of two lights under a square head, in the north wall. The external stonework is all modern, but the rear-arches and jambs are original. In the south wall is a 15th-century piscina with a continuous moulded edge: the bowl is circular. At the west of the chapel a pointed arch to the north aisle spans the aisle from wall to wall without responds. Externally a plinth is carried round the walls and buttresses of the chapel, and there is a string-course at the level of the sills

¹ Ibid.
² *Recov. R. East.* 37 Geo. III, ro. 303; *ibid. Mich.* 46 Geo. III.

³ *Horsfield, Sussex*, i, 504; *Lower, Sussex*, i, 262.

⁴ Information from Mr. L. A. Vidler.

⁵ Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 2 Rich. III.

⁶ *Com. Pleas, D. Enr. East.* 7 Edw. VI,

m. 15 d.

⁷ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 5 Edw. VI; for pedigree of this family see *Suss. Arch. Coll.* i, 97.

⁸ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xiv, no. 724.

⁹ Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 2 Jas. I.

¹⁰ *Ibid. Mich.* 17 Chas. I.

¹¹ *Ibid. Mich.* 1653; *Recov. R. Mich.* 1653, ro. 19.

¹² Feet of F. Suss. East. 10 Geo. II.

¹³ *Add. MS.* 5679, fol. 37.

¹⁴ Bosinhey (xiii cent.); Bosney (xiv cent.).

¹⁵ *Cat. Anct. Deeds*, iii, 532.

¹⁶ *Sussex Subsidies* (*Suss. Rec. Soc.* x), 14, 215.

¹⁷ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* v, 503.

¹⁸ *Ibid.* 508.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

of the windows. A moulded eaves-course on the north wall is returned across the gable at the east, breaking up in pedimental form over the east window.

In the north wall of the nave is an arcade, of about 1180, of two pointed arches of two orders springing from an octagonal pillar and plain chamfered responds. The pillar has a moulded capital and a plain chamfered base. At the responds the inner order of the arches, which is relatively small, falls upon moulded corbels with head terminals, the abaci of the corbels being continued along the face of the responds and returned on the north and south faces of the wall. The corbel at the east respond is modern. The chamfers on the upper order of the arches and on the responds have moulded stops. In the south wall of the nave, and now partially blocked, is an arcade of two pointed arches of the same design except that the central pillar is square with chamfered edges. The corbels, if any, are buried in the wall. Inserted in the north face of the pillar is a stoup with a four-centred head and a curved back: the portion of the bowl which projected has been broken off. The infilling of the eastern arch contains a modern window of three lights set within the rear arch and jambs of a 16th-century window. In the infilling of the western arch are the south doorway and a two-light window, both of the 16th century. The doorway has a four-centred head with continuous mouldings dying into stops at the base. The window also has a four-centred head. The tower arch at the west is of great height: it is of three moulded orders, the two outer orders being continuous to stops at the base, and the inner springing from engaged round shafts with moulded capitals and bases. The nave has an open timber roof of the 15th century with king-post trusses, the king-posts having moulded capitals and bases.

In the north wall of the aisle are two 15th-century windows, each of two cinquefoiled lights in a square head, and between them is a doorway which now opens into the modern vestry. A two-light window in the west wall is modern. Outside the west wall of the aisle, at the north-west corner of the nave, is the projecting portion of what appears to be an angle buttress, now partly covered by the aisle wall. It is built of ironstone ashlar.

The tower is of three stages, supported by deep angle buttresses, which rise through two stages, and surmounted by an embattled parapet: a stair turret at the south-east corner is carried slightly above the walls of the tower. The west doorway has a four-centred arch under a square head with trefoiled spandrels. The label is formed by the string-course at the sill of the window above, and branches on either side of the doorway terminating in angels holding shields of the arms of Scott impaling Lewknor.¹ Above the doorway is a large perpendicular window with modern tracery, and high in the north wall of this stage is a single-light 12th-century window. On the west and south sides of the second stage is a single-light window with a round head and a deep casement moulding; and on each side of the bell-chamber is an opening with a four-centred head fitted with louvres. An unusual and

interesting feature of this tower is a contemporary stone fire-place in the chamber formed by the second stage. It is a wide fire-place with a four-centred stone head on the east side of the chamber, and the flue is gathered in and carried up the east wall of the tower.

The font dates from the 15th century: it is of limestone with a plain bowl, stem, and moulded base, octagonal throughout. The oak altar table with baluster legs is early 17th-century work. In the north chapel is a large hexagonal table inlaid with geometrical patterns. On the north wall of the chancel is a brass with effigy and inscription to Walter Seller, rector of Iden, died 1427. He is vested for Mass and his hands are in the attitude of prayer. Outside the south wall of the tower is a mediæval stone coffin slab, now in fragments.

There are six bells, 1 by Pack & Chapman 1773; 2, 3, 5, 6 by Thomas Mears 1833; 4 by Thomas Mears 1800.²

The church plate consists of a silver cup and paten cover, both of 1640; and a flagon of Sheffield plate.³

The registers begin in 1559.

The church of Iden with its glebe *ADVOWSON* and tithes was granted by Robert Count of Eu to the church and canons of St. Mary in the Castle of Hastings when he founded that church, and was part of the prebend of Peasmarsh, the holder of which owned the advowson. This grant was confirmed by Henry his grandson in the 12th century.⁴ In 1371 the advowson was included, probably in error, in the grant of the manor to William Taylour, and said to be held in chief.⁵ In 1547 the rectory and advowson of Iden were granted with Peasmarsh to Sir Anthony Browne,⁶ father of the first Viscount Montagu, and descended in his family, coming to his grandson Anthony in 1593.⁷ Probably it continued with them for some time longer, but the next mention of it is in 1691, when the rectory, tithes, and advowson were conveyed by Francis Aungier to William Slaughter.⁸ In 1692, however, presentation was made by Thomas Frewen and John Brewer; in 1748 Francis Henderfoot presented, and in 1759 John Davis.⁹ In 1783 various members of the Davis family conveyed the advowson to John Calland,¹⁰ who presented between 1786 and 1807.¹¹ He had conveyed the rectory in 1792 to Thomas Lamb¹² and probably sold the advowson also to him soon after, as it was held by the Lamb family until 1857, when Dr. George Augustus Lamb, then rector, sold it to Edward Horley, who in 1861 sold it to the Rev. John Lockington Bates.¹³ It is now in the gift of the Bishop of Chichester.

The *Chapel of La Mote*, established as the chapel of Kechenoureleigh, then of La Legh, and finally of La Mote, was founded by Edmund de Passeley in 1304, when he obtained licence to alienate lands in Beckley, Peasmarsh, and Northiam for the support of the chaplain celebrating there.¹⁴ He transferred it to the gate-house of his new manor-house of La Mote, and in 1320 and 1326 further lands and the advowson of Fairlight vicarage were alienated to sustain six chaplains celebrating daily Mass for the souls of Edmund, his ancestors, and heirs.¹⁵ The advowson of the chapel followed

¹ Sir William Scott married Sybil Lewknor about 1490. A bequest by Richard Ade, rector, of 43s. to the work of the tower in 1498 (P.C.C. 29 Horne) may date the insertion of this door and the window above it.

² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 214.

³ *Ibid.* lv, 202.

⁴ *Cat. Anct. Deeds*, iii, 532.

⁵ *Cal. Pat.* 1370-4, p. 71.

⁶ *Pat. R.* 38 Hen. VIII, pt. 13.

⁷ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxiii, no. 134.

⁸ Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 3 Will. & Mary.

⁹ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

¹⁰ Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 23 Geo. III.

¹¹ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

¹² *Ibid.* Trin. 32 Geo. III.

¹³ Add. MS. 39469, fol. 173.

¹⁴ *Cal. Pat.* 1301-7, p. 230.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* 1317-21, p. 511; *ibid.* 1324-7, p. 299.

the descent of the manor of Moat;¹ but in 1416 William Marchaunt was returned as patron of the free chapel of Leigh alias Mote,² probably as tenant of the manor. The advowson was sold with the manor by John Pashley to Sir John Scott in 1458.³ Sir John soon afterwards represented to the Pope that the chapel of St. Mary, situated upon the gate of the manor of La Mote, was very ancient and ruinous and that it would be much better to rebuild it elsewhere and convert its precincts to profane uses. The Pope accordingly, in 1467, instructed the Bishop of Chichester that if he found this to be true he should grant a faculty for its removal, provided Sir John increased the endowment sufficiently for the rebuilding and the maintenance of the rector.⁴ The site chosen was evidently part of the lands of the manor in Peasmarsh parish.⁵

In 1540 or 1541 the lands pertaining to the chapel were leased to Robert Cowper for 21 years, but while this lease was still running the possession was granted, in 1549, to Richard Venables and John Maynerde, to be held of the king, in free socage.⁶ In 1548 the last

incumbent, John Harrys, received a pension of 30s. The value of the property of the suppressed chantry, including the advowson of Fairlight, was £6 9s. 1d.⁷ In 1638 the lands were in the occupation of Thomas Bosstocke and Grissell his wife, who in that year leased them, including the part called Massines (in Beckley) to Thomas Pettar of Beckley, who was still holding it in 1656. He paid a rent of £26, a gammon of bacon, a fat goose or a couple of capons, and paid all water scots and reparations.⁸

The Reverend J. Smith, by codicil to *CHARITIES* his will dated 28 May 1815, gave a sum of 3 per cent. Consolidated Annuities to his executors upon trust to pay £5 per annum to the rector, churchwardens, and overseers of Iden to be distributed on the 24 December in each year amongst the aged poor in amounts not exceeding £3 and not less than £1. The endowment now produces about £4, which is distributed by the rector and 4 persons appointed from time to time by the parish council.

PEASMARSH

Pesemerse (xiv cent.).

The parish of Peasmarsh has an area of 3,793 acres, of which 9 acres are water. It is bounded on the north by the River Rother, and on the south by the Tillingham. From a low level in the south the ground rises to 200 ft. round Peasmarsh Place, but sinks again to a stretch of flat, low-lying land in the north of the parish, towards the Rother, much of which is flood-land. The southern part of the parish is well wooded.

The road from Beckley running south-east to Rye Foreign passes through the centre of the parish, and the village lies along it. The church is situated with Peasmarsh Place in the Park half a mile south of the village.

Tillingham Farm and Pelsham Farm are in the extreme south of the parish. From the centre of the village a road runs north past Kitchenham to the Kentish border. The kennels of the Romney Marsh Harriers are in the parish. The nearest station is Rye, 3½ miles south-east. There is a Methodist chapel in the village, established in 1842, and rebuilt in 1900.

The soil is loamy, with a subsoil of clay and gravel. The chief crop is hops, and there is a good deal of grazing land. Near Flackley Ash, which was possibly the meeting place of the hundred of Goldspur, is a windmill.

PEASMARSH is not mentioned in the *MANORS* Domesday survey, but was a prebendal manor granted by Count Robert of Eu to the church and canons of St. Mary in the Castle of Hastings, and confirmed to them by Henry Count of Eu in the 12th century.⁹ It remained in their hands until the Dissolution, and in 1546–7 was granted as a manor

to Sir Anthony Browne of Battle Abbey and Elizabeth his wife.¹⁰ His son Sir Anthony, Viscount Montagu, in 1557 sold the manor to Robert Sheppard and Alexander his son.¹¹ They were concerned, probably in 1573, in a dispute with the Mayor of Rye over the repair of a sea-wall, which was said to damage the haven of Rye, Alexander contending that if he did not mend the breach in it his houses and mills on the marsh would be endangered.¹² Alexander succeeded in 1575, holding it in chief, in free socage, by rent of 30s.,¹³ and his son William died seised of the manor in 1634, leaving a son Richard.¹⁴ It was held by Margaret Shepherd, widow, in 1697 and 1708, and by the heirs of Edward Shepherd in 1719,¹⁵ but by 1740 had passed into the hands of Robert and John Mascall. These two held courts in Peasmarsh jointly in 1740 and 1743, while Robert alone held them from 1748 to 1753, and John from 1758 till his death in 1769, when his property passed to his son Robert.¹⁶ He left it by will to his cousin Robert, who was holding it as a minor in 1777, and was still lord of the manor in 1790.¹⁷ Subsequently it was divided among Robert's daughters, for in 1821 a third was held by William Kenrick and Frances Anne,¹⁸ in 1824 one-third by Caroline Sarah, who had married her cousin Herbert Barrett Curteis,¹⁹ and in 1827 a third by Anne Catherine Mascall, spinster.²⁰ By 1835 the whole had



SHEPPARD. Ermine on a chief sable three battle axes argent.

¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. 31 Hen. VI, no. 26; Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 39 Hen. VI.

² Reg. Archbp. Chichele, ii, 205. John Marchaunt held 200 acres in Iden in 1362: Add. MS. 39375, fol. 189. In 1449 Robert Marchaunt, clothier of London, conveyed a windmill and some 240 acres in Iden, Playden, and Rye to Stephen Marchaunt: *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxiii, no. 3094.

³ Add. Ch. 16156.

⁴ *Cal. Papal Reg.* xii, 608.

⁵ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxiii, 279.

⁶ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* (*Sussex Chantry*), xxxvi, 29, 63; *Cal. Pat. Edw. VI*, iii, 90.

⁷ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxvi, 29, 53.

⁸ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxiii, 278.

⁹ *Cat. Anct. Deeds*, iii, 532.

¹⁰ Pat. R. 38 Hen. VIII, pt. 13.

¹¹ Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 3 & 4 P. and M.

¹² *Cal. S. P. Dom.* 1595–7, p. 137; the date there given, 1595, is wrong, internal evidence pointing to 1572–3: *ex inf.* Mr. L. A. Vidler.

¹³ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxiii, no. 64.

¹⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), dxxxvi, 28; *Visit. Suss.* (Harl. Soc.), 118.

¹⁵ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 175 (Court Rolls).

¹⁶ Hasted's *Kent*, vii, 535, viii, 427.

¹⁷ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 175; *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xx, 352.

¹⁸ *Recov. R. Mich.* 2 Geo. IV, ro. 185.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* East. 5 Geo. IV, ro. 18; Burke, *Landed Gentry* (Curteis).

²⁰ *Recov. R. Mich.* 8 Geo. IV, ro. 257.

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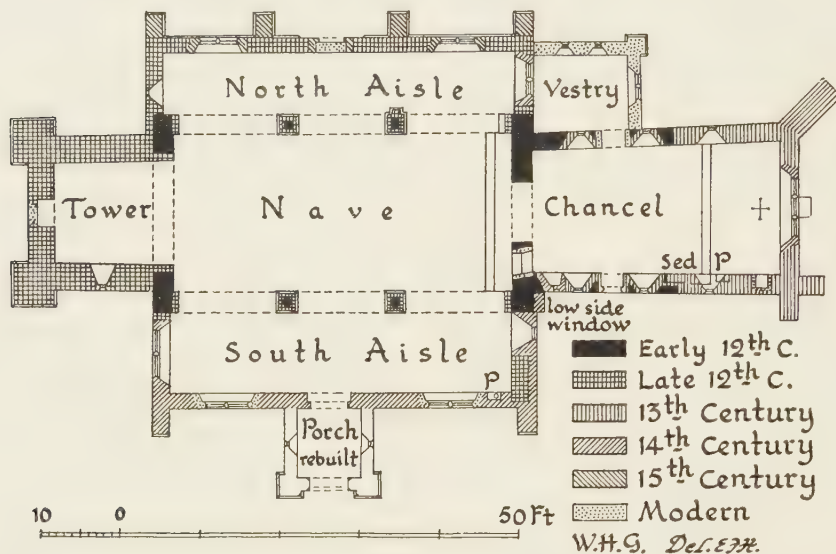
come into the hands of Herbert Barrett Curteis, M.P.¹ He was succeeded by his son Herbert Mascall Curteis, who was holding it in 1870, and died in 1895.² The present lord of the manor is Charles Joseph James Bolton-Clark, esq.

KITCHENHAM, in the north of the parish, may possibly have been identical with the 'Checeham' of Domesday Book,³ there placed in Gostrow Hun-

mained with his brothers, who succeeded him, down to 1719, but towards the end of that century had been acquired by Jeremiah Curteis.¹² From him it evidently descended on his death in 1806 to his daughter Martha, who married Robert Mascall of Peasmarsh, for it was subsequently divided among their daughters,¹³ and probably became merged in the Peasmarsh estate.

The reputed manor of *TILLINGHAM* first ap-

PARISH CHURCH of S.S. PETER & PAUL PEASMARSH



dred. In the time of the Confessor it was held by Edric, a freeman, and after the Conquest by Rainer under Robert of Eu. No manor of that name is mentioned later in Peasmarsh, though a William de Kechenhamme occurs there in 1296 and 1325, and Agnes de Kechenham in 1327,⁴ and John de Kychynhamme, who held in this parish, died before 1343, leaving four daughters.⁵

There are traces of a manor of Peasmarsh connected with Burwash (q.v.). Stephen de Burghersh had land in Peasmarsh in 1310 held by 9 tenants in villeinage, part of the rents of which went to the Abbey of Robertsbridge.⁶ In 1466-7 the manors of Burwash and Peasmarsh were granted by a number of persons, evidently trustees, to John and Elizabeth Burcester,⁷ and a few years later the lands of Sir John Burcester were conveyed to John Lewknor and Jane his wife.⁸ Shortly after that, before 1472, the widow Jane held the manors, with Matthew, Philip, and Beatrice Lewknor.⁹ This presumably formed the manor of *VIELD* or *BURCESTER*, of which Sir John Tufton died seised in 1624,¹⁰ leaving it to his son Nicholas, who was created Earl of Thanet in 1628. From him it passed to his son and grandsons, the eldest of whom, Nicholas, held courts there in 1673 and 1677.¹¹ It re-

pears in 1443, in the possession of William Finch.¹⁴ It follows the descent of the manor of Playden Masca (q.v.),¹⁵ and is last mentioned in 1827.

The church of *ST. PETER AND ST. CHURCH PAUL* consists of a chancel, north vestry, nave, north and south aisles, south porch, and west tower. It is built of stone and the roofs are covered with tiles.

The nave, chancel-arch, and perhaps a portion of the chancel at the north-west date from about 1100. North and south aisles were added and the tower was built about 1180. About the middle of the 13th century the chancel was rebuilt on a larger scale: and in the 14th century the south aisle was widened and a window was inserted in the east wall of the north aisle. The old south porch was also probably of this period. In the 15th century the north wall of the north aisle was heightened and windows and a doorway inserted in it. The church was also reroofed at that time. The vestry is modern. The church has been restored in modern times and the south porch rebuilt.

The chancel, as rebuilt in the 13th century, presents some irregularities of plan. It is 20 in. wider at the east than at the west and the lateral windows are not grouped centrally with the walls in which they are

¹ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 507.

² Lower, *Sussex*, ii, 80; Burke, *Landed Gentry*.

³ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 404b.

⁴ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 19 Edw. II; *Subsidies* (Suss. Rec. Soc. x), 14 and 215.

⁵ Add. MS. 39374, fol. 79. He was son of William: *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxiii, no. 1665.

⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. Edw. II, file 16, no. 2.

⁷ Close R. 6 Edw. IV, m. 23.

⁸ E. Chan. Proc. 39 (284).

⁹ Ibid. 40 (47).

¹⁰ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccviii, 119.

¹¹ G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*; Add. MS. 5680, fol. 398.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Burke, *Landed Gentry*; *Recov. R.* Mich. 2 Geo. IV, ro. 183; *ibid.* East. 5

Geo. IV, ro. 18; *ibid.* Mich. 8 Geo. IV, ro. 257.

¹⁴ *Arch. Cant.* xiii, 323.

¹⁵ Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 9 Eliz.; Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), dcccvi, 28; Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 26 Geo. III; *Recov. R.* Mich. 2 Geo. IV, ro. 183; *ibid.* 5 Geo. IV, ro. 18; *ibid.* 8 Geo. IV, ro. 257; Add. MS. 5680, fol. 361.

built, but westward of the centre. In the 14th century a great diagonal buttress was built at the north-west corner. Stones with early-12th-century carving are re-used in the walls outside. Above the priest's doorway on the south is the figure of a lion couchant in low relief: below the plinth of the buttress at the east end of the south wall is the figure of a stag; and at the head of the diagonal buttress the figure of a flying bird. In the east wall is a three-light window with arch and jambs of the 14th century but modern tracery. The label over the arch has curled stops. In each of the north and south walls are three tall lancet windows, one of them on the north being enclosed in the modern vestry. These lancets shew development in the form of their jambs from those of the early part of the century and probably are of about 1250. A pointed priest's doorway with a plain chamfered edge on the south and a piscina and two sedilia below the first window are also of the same period. The piscina has a pointed head with a plain chamfer rising from stops: the bowl is circular. The sedilia are distinct recesses with plain chamfers and pointed heads, and are set at different heights, the projecting stone seat being stepped down to the west sedile. At the east end of the wall is a pointed recess, all the stonework of which is covered with plaster: it is probably of late date. At the west end of the wall is a low-side window, of the 14th century, with a trefoiled head: it retains one hinge for the shutter. In the north wall is a modern doorway to the vestry.

The chancel arch is built of large blocks of ironstone. Owing to the pressure of the wall above, associated perhaps with too early removal of centring, it is now elliptical and the jambs have spread towards the top. Measurements show that the arch was not only round originally but was stilted 5 in. above the imposts. Both the arch and the jambs have perfectly plain edges, but the arch springs from imposts carved with rolls and incised ornament. The second quoin stone below the impost on both sides of the arch facing the nave is carved in low relief with a crude figure of a lion couchant. On the south side of the arch there is an opening through the wall, from the nave to the chancel, 4 ft. 9 in. up from the floor of the nave, 2 ft. 10 in. high and 2 ft. 5 in. wide. It has a roughly formed round head and the whole of the stonework is covered with plaster: it is probably of late date.

On either side of the nave is an arcade of three pointed arches, of about 1180. The arches are of one order with small plain chamfers on the edges, and spring from square pillars and responds with chamfered abaci. The jambs of the east arch of the north arcade have edge rolls with moulded caps and had moulded bases, but those of the west jamb, on the first pillar, have been destroyed. The jambs of the east arch of the south arcade were similarly enriched: but here only those on the pillar remain. The jambs of the other arches of both arcades have plain chamfers rising from stops at the base and dying into the abaci. The north wall must have been thrown out of perpendicular at an early period, for both the pillars here and the wall above are strongly battered on the north side, the first pillar having also a buttress on that side. On the west face of the first pillar of the south arcade is a shallow cinquefoiled niche with a square label. The tower arch spans the full width of the tower and springs directly from chamfered imposts: it is pointed and has

a plain chamfered edge which dies into the wall above the abaci. The jambs have small plain chamfers with stops at the base and below the abaci. High above the arch, and now covered by the tower, is a tall round-headed window, of about 1150.

In the east wall of the north aisle is a 14th-century window of two trefoiled lights, now opening into the vestry. In the north wall are two windows, each of two cinquefoiled lights in a square head, and a doorway, now blocked, with a four-centred head. They are all late-15th-century work. In the west wall is a tall lancet window belonging to the early period and placed to the south of the axial line of the aisle in order to clear the early lean-to roof.

The east wall of the south aisle is about 12 in. thicker than the walls of the nave or the chancel. When the aisle was rebuilt this wall was probably strengthened as a support for the nave at this corner, and a small buttress built at the east side of the corner. In the wall, and probably occupying the position of an early lancet, is a trefoiled light of the 14th century. At the east end of the south wall is a piscina, under a segmental head, with a chamfered edge rising from stops. The bowl is circular and is incised with draining grooves: it is cut on the left side of the sill, thus leaving space for a shelf on the right side. A carved head has been built into the wall near the piscina. In the south wall are two modern windows, copies of a 14th-century window in the west wall, of two cinquefoiled lights with tracery under a pointed head. The south doorway has a round arch with a large edge-roll: all but a few stones are modern. The porch has been rebuilt, but re-used on either side is a single-light window restored.

The chancel, nave, and south aisle all have collar-beam roofs of the 15th century secured by moulded tie-beams: the open lean-to roof of the north aisle is of the same period: and old rafters have been re-used in the roof of the porch.

The tower is of two stages supported at the west angles by clasping buttresses: it is surmounted by a low timber spire covered with shingles. The west doorway is blocked and above it is a modern lancet. In the south wall of the ground stage there is another lancet, which, though not recent work, appears to be a later insertion. Above it is a small blocked window and opposite this is a similar blocking: both probably represent original small lancets. There is a tall lancet window on each of the north, south, and west sides of the bell-chamber.

The font is modern. Behind the reredos in the sanctuary is a 17th-century oak altar table. The oak gateway in the porch is work of the 18th century. On the floor of the nave are some medieval tiles.

There are four bells, all by Joseph Hatch, 1631.¹

The church plate consists of a silver cup, modern; and a paten on a foot, of 1843.²

The registers begin in 1569.

The church of Peasmarsch was *ADVOWSON* granted with the prebend to St. Mary's, Hastings, as stated above. The right of presentation to the prebend came early into the hands of the Crown, and many presentations occur from 1247 on.³ The tithes were appropriated, and the advowson of the vicarage was in the hands of the prebendary. In 1539 the vicar was accused of seditious sayings by certain gentlemen of the neighbourhood.⁴

¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 227.

² *Ibid.* lv, 203.

³ *Cal. Pat.* 1232-47, p. 509; *ibid.* 1436-41, p. 172.

⁴ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (1), 512.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

After the Dissolution the rectory and advowson were granted with the prebendal manor to Sir Anthony Browne,¹ and remained in the hands of the Viscounts Montagu² when the manor was sold to the Sheppards. In 1629 presentation was made by William Haywood of London, and in 1637 by Thomas Rieves, but in 1638 Viscount Montagu again made the gift.³ In 1639 he conveyed it to John Gyles.⁴ In 1694 James Johnson presented, but the advowson is said to have been bequeathed by Mr. Gyles to Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge,⁵ who presented in 1699 and with whom it has continued since.⁶

In 1586 Viscount Montagu conveyed the rectory to John Haye,⁷ who transferred it in 1597 to Alexander Sheppard,⁸ by whom the rectorial tithes were sold to Sir Norton Knatchbull in 1613,⁹ but in 1619 John Stronghill of Lydd died seised of half of them, holding them, for 80 years, of the king in chief by knight service.¹⁰ In 1638 his son John conveyed this moiety to Bridget Bunbury and her husband Thomas.¹¹ In 1693 the whole of the tithes were conveyed by Francis Blower, David Rowlands, and William Pett and Ursula to William Pocklington.¹² By 1785 they had come into the hands of the Curteis family,¹³ who shortly afterwards owned the prebendal manor (q.v.), with whom they probably remained.

The Reverend J. Smith by codicil to *CHARITIES* his will, dated 28 May 1815, gave a sum of 3 per cent. Consolidated Annuities to his executors upon trust to pay £10 per annum to the rector, churchwardens, and overseers of Peasmarsh to be distributed on the 24 December in each

year amongst the aged poor in sums of not less than £1. The endowment now produces about £8 per annum, which is distributed by the rector and 4 persons appointed from time to time by the parish council.

Dr. James Johnson's Charity. According to Gilbert's Returns this charity was founded by the will of Dr. Johnson in the year 1703 whereby he gave a sum of £100 to Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, for the purpose of supplying books of devotion for the children of 4 parishes, of which Peasmarsh is one. The endowment now produces £3 per annum.

Admiral Russell's Charity. The date of foundation is not known, but according to Gilbert's Returns a rent-charge of £1 issuing out of an estate called Dinglesden was distributed in 1786 among the poor. The rent-charge is distributed by the vicar in gifts of food, &c.

Kingsnorth Reeve, by his will proved in London on 1 August 1916, gave £100 upon trust to apply the interest in doles of money or kind on the 21 October in each year amongst necessitous poor to a value of not more than 5s. per head per family. The endowment produces about £3 10s. per annum, which is distributed by the churchwardens and 2 trustees appointed from time to time by the parish council.

Henry Noakes, by his will proved in London on 9 July 1924, gave to his trustees a sum of 2½ per cent. Consolidated Stock upon trust to pay an annual sum of £2 10s. to the trustees of the Wesleyan Methodist chapel at Peasmarsh to be expended by them in the purchase of bibles to be presented among the children of the chapel Sunday school.

PLAYDEN

Pleidena (xi cent.), Pleydoun (xiv cent.).

The parish of Playden has an area of 1,307 acres, of which 20 acres are water, 6 acres tidal water, and 6 acres foreshore. The White Kemp Sewer forms the parish boundary on the extreme east. On the west it is bounded by the main road running north out of Rye. The village lies along this road and the branch roads running east from it, the more southerly one being called Saltcote Street, and the other running past the rectory to the Mount. This part of the parish, just outside Rye, where the village is situated, lies about 100 ft. above sea-level, rising to 177 ft. by St. Michael's Church, terminating to the east in a cliff about 120 ft. high above the River Rother and the Royal Military Canal. The rest of the parish, to the north, has a level of about 50 ft. There is a windmill in the south of the parish, on the east of the main road. The supposed site of St. Bartholomew's Hospital now lies just within the boundary of Rye, but the chapel was possibly in Playden.

The soil is loam, with a subsoil of clay, and the land is principally used for grazing.

In the time of King Edward the Con-
MANORS fessor Playden was held by Siulf. After the Conquest it was held in demesne by the Count of Eu. The land, however, was leased, a hide to Ednod, one to Walter, one to Reinir, ½ hide to Geoffrey, and 3 virgates with the church to Tetbald the priest.¹⁴ Later, however, most of the land seems to have come into monastic hands.

The *HOSPITAL OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW* was founded by, or under, the auspices of the abbey of Fécamp, and Ralf, Abbot of Fécamp from 1189 to 1219, endowed it with lands in the parish. It was bestowed in 1461 upon the abbey of Syon, and subsequently in 1502 upon Westminster Abbey.¹⁵ In 1530 the lands were leased by the abbot to Nicholas Tufton, but after the Dissolution they were granted, in 1542, to Andrew Lord Windsor.¹⁶ His son William, inheriting in 1543, was succeeded by the latter's son Edward Lord Windsor in 1558,¹⁷ and in 1560 the manor was conveyed to William Scott.¹⁸ Henry Peck and John Tufton, however, were associated with him in the ownership, and in 1572 and 1576 Henry Peck appears in posses-

¹ Pat. R. 38 Hen. VIII, pt. 13.

² *Inq. p.m.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xxxiii), no. 134.

³ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

⁴ Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 14 Chas. I.

⁵ C. Dawson, *Hastings Castle*, 448.

⁶ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

⁷ Pat. R. 29 Eliz. pt. 18.

⁸ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 39-40 Eliz.

⁹ Ibid. Trin. 11 Jas. I.

¹⁰ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cclxxvi, no. 102.

¹¹ Feet of F. (Suss. Rec. Soc. xx), 343.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 25 Geo. III.

¹⁴ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 405b.

¹⁵ Ibid. ii, 104.

¹⁶ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xvii, g. 285 (18).

¹⁷ *G.E.C. Complete Peerage*.

¹⁸ *Recov. R. East.* 2 Eliz. ro. 627; *Pat. R.* 2 Eliz. pt. 9; Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 2/3 Eliz.



PEASMARSH CHURCH: INTERIOR, LOOKING EAST



PLAYDON *with part of the church*

PLAYDEN CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-WEST, c. 1785
(From a drawing in the Burrell Collections)

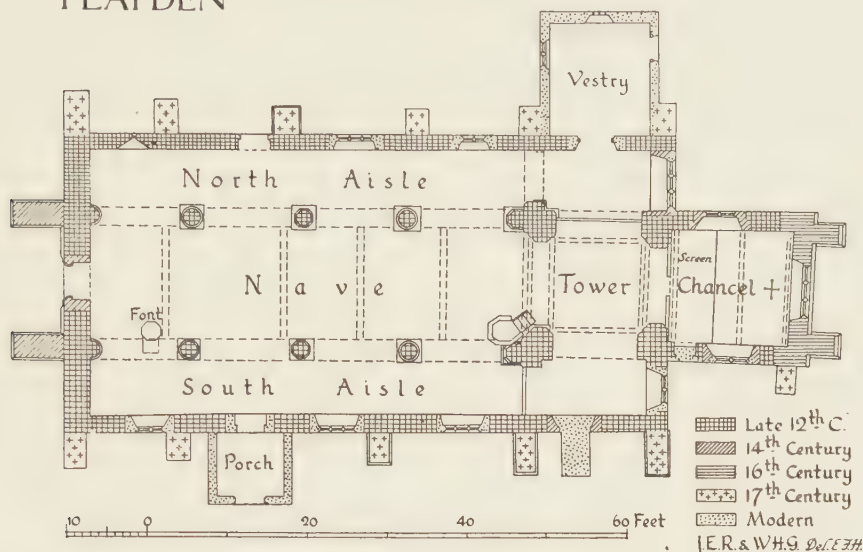
sion,¹ and in 1601 John Tufton.² In 1611 Sir John Tufton definitely received a grant of the manor³ and he died seised of it in 1624.⁴ His son Nicholas, created Earl of Thanet in 1628, held it until 1631, when his son John succeeded.⁵ John's son Nicholas held the manor in 1664, when he conveyed it to Sir Clifford Clifton.⁶

A Fair, held on St. Bartholomew's Day (Aug. 24) was long held outside Rye, and is mentioned in 1664.⁷

in 1784. His nephew William Courtenay Morland succeeded in 1846, being High Sheriff for Sussex in 1876. He died in 1909, and the present owner is his grandson William Morland.¹⁷

Another manor in Playden, later called *PLAYDEN MASCALL* when it came into the possession of the Mascall family in the 18th century, appears in 1567 in the possession of Robert Sheppard¹⁸ and descended with the prebendal manor of Peasmarsh (q.v.).¹⁹ It is

PARISH CHURCH of ST MICHAEL PLAYDEN



It was still held in 1792 on the equivalent date, 4 September, but had lapsed before 1888.⁸

PLAYDEN PORTER or *MORLAND*. In 1107 Ansel de Freschville endowed the abbey of St. Mary at Tréport in Normandy with lands or rents in Playden worth 65s., with the consent of his overlord Henry de Eu.⁹ Before 1195 that abbey sold their Sussex property to the abbey of Robertsbridge.¹⁰ About 1200 the lands were leased to John de Northey for a rent of 60s. and 5 ambres of salt, with the reservation of a saltpan which the abbey had always had at Playden.¹¹ In 1511 the abbot leased to the mayor of Rye a piece of land called Newlandsgarden in Playden, adjoining the mount there called 'le Melbergh' on the east, and a lane to 'Goldhoppell' on the north. In 1515 their mill at Playden was also the subject of an agreement.¹² After the Dissolution the Robertsbridge estates were granted in 1539 to Sir William Sidney and Agnes his wife¹³ and descended¹⁴ with the manor of Robertsbridge (q.v.) until 1616, when Robert Viscount Lisle sold the 'manor' to John Porter and his son Richard.¹⁵ It remained in the Porter family until about 1730, when it was sold to the Morlands.¹⁶ William held it until 1774, when he was succeeded by his son Thomas, from whom it passed to his son William Alexander Morland

last mentioned about 1835, when it was owned by Edward Jeremiah Curteis.²⁰

The church of *ST. MICHAEL* consists of a chancel, central tower, vestry, nave, north and south aisles, which extend on each side of the tower, and south porch. It is built of stone and the roofs are covered with tiles.

The church was built about 1190 and is a remarkably fine example of a small church of that period, well proportioned internally and of great dignity of design. Windows were inserted in the 14th, 15th, and 16th centuries and the church has been restored in modern times, the greatest alteration being in respect to its roofs. As can be seen by lines on the west wall, the roof of the nave was distinct from those of the aisles and had a clerestory with windows.²¹ But later the roof of the nave was continued down over the aisles and the clerestory was inclosed. The vestry and the south porch are modern: the latter is said to have replaced a porch of early date.

The chancel does not retain any visible feature of the original period, though traces may exist behind the plaster. In the east wall is a 16th-century window of three lights under a four-centred head and in the north wall a window, probably of the late 14th century, of

¹ Feet of F. Suss. East. 14 Eliz.

² Ibid. Hil. 43 Eliz.

³ Pat. R. 9 Jas. I, pt. 28; Cal. S. P. Dom. 1611-18, p. 49.

⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccviii, 119.

⁵ Ibid. cccclxv, 53.

⁶ Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 15 & 16 Chas. II.

⁷ Ibid.; V.C.H. Suss. ii, 104.

⁸ Roy. Com. Market Rights, 210.

⁹ Cal. Doc. France, 81.

¹⁰ Lord de L'Isle and Dudley (Hist. MSS. Com.), pp. 45, 83, 106, 126.

¹¹ Ibid. p. 55.

¹² Ibid. p. 157. In 1488 'Le Melberew of Gooldhappnell' had been let to William Penell of Rye: *ibid.* 156.

¹³ L. and P. Hen. VIII, xiv, p. 423.

¹⁴ Inq. p.m. (Suss. Rec. Soc. xxxiii), no. 213.

¹⁵ Recov. R. Trin. 14 Jas. I, ro. 23; Feet of F. (Suss. Rec. Soc. xx), 290; Feet

of F. Suss. East. 15 Jas. I.

¹⁶ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 505; Recov. R. Hil. 4 Geo. II, ro. 44.

¹⁷ Burke, *Landed Gentry*.

¹⁸ Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 9 Eliz.

¹⁹ Ibid. Hil. 12 Jas. I; Recov. R. East. 5 Geo. IV, ro. 18.

²⁰ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 505.

²¹ A drawing by A. J. Cooper in 1852 shows a circular clerestory window above the roof of the north aisle.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

two trefoiled lights under a square head. In the south wall is a modern window of two lights with internal jambs and rear-arch which are probably of the same period as the north window, and near it a blocked priest's door can be seen inside: it is not visible outside.

The tower stands on four pointed arches which spring from moulded imposts. The east arch is of two orders, the upper order being moulded on both sides and the lower order plainly chamfered: on the west side is a moulded label. The responds have small plain chamfers with moulded stops at the base and below the imposts. The west arch of the crossing has a single chamfered order at the east and three orders with a mutilated moulded label on the side towards the nave: the two upper orders are richly moulded while the lowest has a plain chamfer only. The north and south arches are of a single order with a small plain chamfer on each side. The responds of all the arches are relieved only by chamfers at the edges of the orders. The moulded imposts are continuous round the adjoining responds and also round the east responds of the nave, the arches of the nave springing from the same level as those of the crossing.

The aisles are carried eastward, north and south of the tower, with continuous roofs. In the east wall of the north aisle is a three-light window with modern tracery but old, probably 15th-century, rear-arch and jambs. In the north wall is a doorway to the vestry with some old stones in the west internal jamb. On the west is an original pointed arch to the north aisle with plain chamfered edges and responds and springing from chamfered imposts.

The east bay of the south aisle is occupied by the organ. There is a modern square-headed window of two lights in the east wall and in the south wall are traces of an opening, now blocked by an outside buttress. The west arch, to the aisle, has been destroyed, but the north respond with its impost remains.

The nave has on either side similar arcades of four arches. The central pillar and the east respond are octagonal, while the other two pillars and the west respond are round. The first three arches are round and the westernmost is pointed, otherwise the details of the arches, capitals, and bases are the same throughout. The arches are of two orders, the upper moulded and the lower plainly chamfered: the labels are chamfered and have circular stops. On the sides towards the aisles both orders are plainly chamfered and there are no labels. The capitals and bases of the pillars are moulded but have no other ornament. The pillars of both arcades have been repaired. A mutilated head corbel has been built into the wall near the south-west respond. Above the second arch from the west on either side is a circular clerestory window with a deep internal splay, and a similar window, now blocked, can be traced beneath the plaster in the next bay to the east. The outside faces of the windows are now covered by the roof. In the west wall of the nave is a late-14th-century pointed doorway with ogee mouldings and a label with returned stops, and, above the doorway, a four-light window with tracery in a pointed head. The stonework of the window is modern, but the arch in which it is set is probably of the same date as the doorway.

The north aisle retains at the west end of the north wall a small original window with a round head, 5½ in.

wide and 3 ft. 3 in. high. Externally it has a continuous hollow chamfer and internally deeply splayed jambs and a round rear-arch. Two windows farther east, one of two lights and the other of three lights, are modern. The north doorway has an elliptical arch, once perhaps round, cut with a large, crudely formed edge roll: it is of doubtful date.

The windows of the south aisle, all in the south wall, are modern, two being of three lights and the westernmost of two lights. The south doorway is similar to that in the north aisle, but here the stonework is covered with cement. The wall-plates and some of the moulded tie-beams of the nave roof are of medieval date, as are the wall-plates of the aisles and the chancel.

The tower rises one stage above the rest of the church and has on each side a tall lancet window: it is surmounted by a high timber spire, covered with shingles and terminated by a large metal cross. The upper stage is reached by a heavily-built wood ladder¹ set up within the crossing. The timberwork of the spire is medieval.

The font dates from the 15th century and is octagonal. The bowl has plain sides with mouldings below: the stem has a trefoiled panel on each side and stands on a moulded base. There is a small 17th-century oak table. Below the east arch of the tower is a 15th-century oak screen, consisting of a central door and four traceried panels on either side, with a moulded cornice above. Below the north arch of the tower is an elaborately carved oak screen of about 1310. It is of seven bays with a post between the two westernmost bays: there is no door. Below the rail, 3 ft. 3 in. from the floor, it is plainly panelled. The upper part has open cinquefoiled bays divided by small pillars with moulded capitals, bands, and bases. Above the arches of the bays is a band of foliated tracery and above the tracery a deep cornice, projected forward, and moulded on the side towards the crossing: the whole screen being 7 ft. 9 in. in height. The fifth and sixth bays from the east are modern with the exception of the lower panels. On the floor of the north aisle is a stone slab, of about 1530, with incised drawings of a cask, crossed mash-stick and fork, the insignia of the brewer's trade, to a Flemish brewer, with the inscription *Hier is begrauē Cornelis Zoetmanns bidt voer de ziele*—Here is buried Cornelis Zoetmanns, pray for his soul.

There are three bells, all by R. Phelps, 1718.²

The church plate consists of a silver cup and cover paten, both of 1568—the cup is of Elizabethan pattern with arabesque ornament below the lip and near the base of the bowl: the edge of the paten is decorated with floral arabesque; a silver paten of 1893; a paten on three feet, of Sheffield plate, and a silver flagon of 1893.³

The registers begin in 1714.

The church or chapel of Playden *ADVOWSON* was granted to the canons of St.

Mary at Hastings by Robert de Eu, and confirmed to them by his grandson Henry in the 12th century.⁴ After the Dissolution the rectory and advowson were granted with Peasmarsh prebend to Sir Anthony Browne in 1546–7,⁵ and remained with the Viscounts Montagu until 1638, when it was conveyed to Marmaduke Burton.⁶ In 1703 Anna Beeston presented, in 1713 Anthony Stokes, in 1755 Anna Legge, and in 1765 the Bishop of Chichester.⁷ In

¹ On the ladder is cut a date, 16—.

² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 227.

³ *Ibid.* lv, 203–4.

⁴ *Cat. Anct. Deeds*, iii, 532.

⁵ *Pat. R.* 38 Hen. VIII, pt. 13; *Inq. p.m.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xxxiii), no. 134.

⁶ Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 14 Chas. I.

⁷ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

1792 the rectory, with that of East Guldeford, annexed about that time to Playden, was conveyed by John Calland to Thomas Lamb.¹ His grandson, the Rev. George Augustus Lamb, D.D., sold the advowson in 1848 to Thomas Bedford, who transferred it in 1859 to the Rev. Charles Shrubb. He left it in 1872 to Mr. C. M. Ramus, whose brother Bertram Ramus inherited it in 1895.² The living is now in the gift of Captain H. S. Hurrell.

¹ *Feet of F.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix), 239.

The Parish Clerk's Land is comprised in an indenture made in October 1703 whereby about 2 acres of land was given to the inhabitants of Playden partly as a recreation ground and partly for raising money to defray the wages of the parish clerk. The land, known as The Butt or Playing Field, is let at £10 per annum, which sum is paid to the parish clerk. The charity is administered by the rector, churchwardens, and two other trustees.

² Add. MS. 39469, fol. 243.

HUNDRED OF GOSTROW

CONTAINING THE PARISHES OF

BREDE AND UDIMORE

IN 1086 the hundred of 'Babinrerode'¹ contained only 'Checeham' (probably Kitchenham in Peasmarsh, now in Goldspur Hundred) and Udimore.² By 1230 the name had become Gosetrowe, no doubt from the tree in Brede, where the hundred place was.³

In 1296 the hundred was composed of the townships of Brede and Udimore and the combined townships of 'Smegle', now lost, and Gateborough.⁴ Smegle appears on the court rolls of the hundred until the 19th century;⁵ Gateborough was still a 'borough' in 1523,⁶ but for such purposes as taxation and musters these townships no longer appear after the 13th century.⁷ In the 15th century the hundred appears to have been subdivided and a separate hundred of Dawestone, containing the boroughs of Gateborough and Udimore, appears, courts being held for this hundred as late as 1685.⁸ This seems to have been attached to the manor of Udimore. An appeal was made, and evidently with success, in 1661 for the annexation to Rye of the parts of Rye parish lying in Gostrow hundred.⁹ In the 18th century the hundred was divided into the half-hundreds of Brede, comprising Church Borough and Smegle, and Udimore, comprising Knellstone and East Borough. Courts were held for both subdivisions in April and October, at the latter of which constables and headboroughs were appointed.¹⁰ After 1837 the only appointments made were one constable for Brede and one for Udimore.

This hundred was returned as belonging to Hastings honour in 1316;¹¹ but by 1275 it was already in the possession of Fécamp Abbey,¹² whose liberty of Brede impeded justice in the hundred, the abbot not permitting distraint for debt by the king or any other.¹³ In 1278 the abbot had three quarters of the hundred and William de Echingham (lord of Udimore) the other quarter,¹⁴ but the abbot seems to have extended his authority over the whole. Possibly after the seizure of the Fécamp estates in 1413 the Echinghams reasserted their rights, as in 1474 Sir Thomas Echingham leased his manor of Udimore with 'all courts and hundreds' to Robert Oxenbrigge.¹⁵ The privileges were the same as Battle enjoyed.¹⁶

¹ This name, which occurs on the Pipe Roll of 31 Henry I as 'Babirote', appears in 1406 as 'the high road called Baboestrete' in Brede: Court R. (P.R.O.) bdle. 2, no. 26. ² *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 404b and note.

³ *Place-Names of Suss.* (Place-Name Soc.), 514.

⁴ *Suss. Subs.* (Suss. Rec. Soc.), 15-16.

⁵ Ct. R. (Gen. Ser.), portf. 205, nos. 59, 62-3; 206, nos. 1, 3-4. After 1837 the boroughs disappear: *ex inf.* Mr. John E. Ray.

⁶ Aug. Off. Misc. Bks. 436.

⁷ *Feud. Aids*, v, 133; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvii, 67; 1, 174. Cf. *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (1), p. 298.

⁸ Court Rolls in the possession of Mr. John E. Ray. In 1524 the inhabitants of Gateborough attended 'the lete holden at Dawstone within the ville of Udymer': Aug. Off. Misc. Bks. 436.

⁹ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii, App. 4, p. 240.

¹⁰ Court Rolls in the possession of Mr. John E. Ray.

¹¹ *Feud. Aids*, v, 133.

¹² *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 216-17; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* vi, 68; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vii, no. 625 (p. 427). An 'alderman of the liberty of the Abbot of Fécamp' occurs in 1262: Assize R. 912.

¹³ *Hund. R.* loc. cit.

¹⁴ Assize R. 921, m. 3.

¹⁵ Deed in possession of Mr. John E. Ray.

¹⁶ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* vi, 57.

BREDE

Bretta (xi cent.); Vrede (c. 1200); Brede (xiii cent. onwards).

The parish is composed of the village of Brede and hamlet of Broad Oak, Cockmarling having been transferred under the provisions of the Divided Parishes Act of 1882 to Udimore. Little Brede was a detached portion of the parish, but by the East Sussex Review Order (1934) it was added to Udimore and certain detached portions of the latter parish were added to Brede.¹

The road from Rye to Battle passes from east to west through the parish, crossed by that from Northiam to Hastings; and the hamlet of Broad Oak is grouped round the intersecting point. The village of Brede with the church lies on the southern arm of the Hastings road.

Brede Place stands in its own grounds nearly a mile east of the church, north of the river Brede, and close to a ford over a small tributary of that river, from which it was formerly known as Ford Place. It is probable that Robert Oxenbridge rebuilt or at least remodelled the house soon after he acquired the manor (q.v.) in the 15th century. His descendant, Sir Robert, removed to Hurstbourne Priors in Hampshire, where he died in 1574, and Ford Place was probably let but remained in the family until a later Sir Robert, who died in 1645, disposed of all the Brede property. After the Oxenbridges, the house was held by Sir William Dyke, who died about 1671, and his heirs sold it in 1676 to Richard Parker.² In 1712 it was purchased by Sir Edward Frewen of Brickwall, Northiam, and remained in the possession of that family till 1936.³ The plan of the main part was a rectangle—about 80 ft. by 34 ft. externally. It had, in the 15th century, a great hall of two bays, about 38 ft. by 29 ft. internally, with a south solar wing about 18 ft. wide and a north buttery wing about 16 ft. wide. The 14th-century or earlier building was probably timber-framed. There are indications inside that the hall was of the same length as the later hall but was narrower, perhaps about 23 ft., and that the ends of the two wings were jettied and gabled. Robert Oxenbridge probably rebuilt the walls in stone, enclosing both hall and projecting wings in an unbroken rectangle, and added at the south end an L-shaped extension projecting west and south and containing the chapel. Sir Goddard, who died in 1531, early in the 16th century added the brick porch and the projecting bay to the west front, and some of the fireplaces and windows are of his time, but the great central chimney-stack, the upper floors in the great hall, and the main staircase are of later 16th-century insertion.

The deep, semi-octagonal projecting bay overlaps the hall and the solar, with a doorway to each. It seems too small for chambers and the only logical reason for its erection is that it housed a vanished newel staircase. The main wall of the west front is mostly of coursed ashlar of Sussex sandstone. The front of the chapel is also of ashlar, but the remainder of the 15th-century walling is of rubble with ashlar dressings. The early-16th-century porch-wing is of two stories and is built of very small red bricks with sandstone dressings. The entrance archway has brick steps leading up to it: it has moulded jambs and a four-centred arch all of white limestone: the hood-mould over has human-head stops. Above it is a window of three four-centred lights with

a square hood-mould. The head is gabled and has a moulded coping and a pinnacle. The moulded string-course of the side parapets is carried across the base of the gable and has carvings at the angles, the northern a bishop's head and the southern a grotesque man's head. On the south side is built out a narrow contemporary annexe; its lower story, which may have been a garde-robe, has a small Tudor window in the south wall and there was formerly one in the west wall. The gabled upper story serves as a bay to the room over the porch. It has a western angle-window of four arched lights. The external faces of the square stone angle mullion are carved with patterned panels. There is another single light also in the south wall. The inner doorway from the porch to the former 'screens' of the hall is of the early 15th century. The semi-octagonal projection farther south is coeval with the porch: it is built of small bricks, without stone dressings except to the chamfered plinth. The brick string-course of a parapet still remains, but it now has an eaves gutter. The bay has a basement entered by an arched brick doorway on the north. Through the main wall on the east side of this chamber are steps to a former trapdoor in the house, but the space is now floored over. The front wall of the ground floor has a window all of brickwork with moulded jambs and Tudor arch in a square head.

In the main west wall, between the projecting bay and the chapel-wing, was the former solar wing, and the whole space is filled on each story by an early-16th-century window of six lights, divided by a large moulded central mullion. There is also an arched doorway to a cellar under this part. The hall window, north of the projecting bay, is an insertion of c. 1600. Other windows in this wall are modern.

The south wing containing the chapel projects beyond the main front and is gabled. The walls are of ashlar, and the front has two original buttresses. The entrance to the chapel is by a doorway similar to that on the main west wall. Above it is a trefoiled window to the gallery and on the west wall both ground floor and gallery have square-headed windows with two cinquefoiled lights to each. A very large window on the south wall lights the altar; it is of three tall cinquefoiled lights and vertical tracery on a pointed head with a moulded label. A modern corbelled chimney-stack has been added to the gallery. The wing east of the chapel contains the principal staircase. It has original square-headed windows in the west, south, and east walls. The east wall is flush with the main east wall.

In the south wall is an early-16th-century projecting chimney-stack of stone rubble with an octagonal stone shaft. The single-light windows next west of the chimney have been blocked. Off the south-east angle and projecting eastwards is another small wing lighted by loops for a former staircase. The main east wall has large windows filling the whole width of the former solar wing and like those on the west wall but of eight lights. Above them is an Elizabethan crow-stepped gable of brick containing a wood-framed window of three lights. The four-light square-headed window, which now lights a pantry cut off from the former hall, is of stone and may be of 16th-century origin; the other wood-framed windows are later. The back entrance to the former 'screens' of the great hall is pointed like that

¹ Kelly, *Directory*.

² Court Rolls of Brede, *penes*, J. E. Ray.

³ In 1936 it was bought by R. Brinsley Sheridan.

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in the front, but of plainer detail. The north end wall is of rubble and has no plinth. In the west half of it is a two-light window of c. 1500, and above, west of it, is a blocked doorway which may have opened from a former stair-turret or other chamber. In the east half of this wall, which was the side of the former buttery wing, is a modern doorway, but in the upper story are two ancient windows, one of two elliptically headed lights of c. 1500 and the other of two trefoiled lights like those in the southern extension. In the middle of the wall is a contemporary projecting chimney-stack to the upper story carried on old stone corbels.

The roof is tiled and in it are several dormer windows. The roof of the main block rises above the others: the central chimney-stack above it is of the usual local cross-shaped plan, of late-16th-century thin bricks. That above the solar wing is square and is also of thin bricks. All the other chimney-stacks, except that over the southernmost wall, have modern stone shafts.

There are many features of interest inside the building. The site of the great hall is divided into two main chambers by the central chimney-stack. The northern, now the entrance-hall, once used as a farm kitchen, has the two pointed doorways already described. The east doorway is set higher than the west owing to the slope of the ground, and four steps lead up to it inside, the late-16th-century ceiling being raised to give headroom for the door. Across the north wall is a moulded wall-beam 7 ft. 3 in. high: the thin wall below it has been rebuilt with 17th-century bricks, and above it is exposed some of the original timber-framing.

The southern chamber, or hall, also shows the old framing of the partition between it and the solar wing, now the dining-room: it has an embattled wall-beam, which is continued into a pantry, now cut off the east side, and is evidence for a former overhanging upper story to the original timber-framed house. It has the mouldings stopped by the mitre or scribing where it met the moulded beam of the former east wall: from this stop the beam continues outwards as a plain one, as it would do normally if carried outside to support the jettied upper wall. The wall-post supporting the beam is 4 ft. from the inner face of the stone east wall and has a notch for the former bracket of the overhang. The evidence is borne out by the framing of the same wall in the upper story where the curved strut to support the wall-post of the east front is still in place, although the post itself has been removed. Both post and curved strut remain at the other end of the wall. The 15th-century tie-beam, wall-plates, and end wall-beams in the two bedrooms occupying the site of the great hall have heavily carved stops representing conventional oak leaves. The front (west) wall-plate appears to be *in situ*, but the east wall-plate was reset on the stone wall when the original timber wall was removed. The tie-beam serves as a wall-beam on the north front of the central chimney-stack, but runs free east and west of it. A shaped wall-post was inserted to carry the east end of it. Parts of the plain king-post construction can be seen in the attics; each pair of common rafters is tied together by cross-braces and morticed and tenoned at the apex.

The ground- and first-floor ceilings have chamfered beams of c. 1600. The central chimney-stack has wide fire-places with brick jambs and chamfered oak lintels.

East of it is a small winding staircase of oak to the second floor. The central newel is an octagonal post with concave sides and having a moulded base and capping.¹

The former buttery wing north of the hall has the original plain wide joists exposed in the ground-floor ceiling. The upper room has an early-16th-century stone fire-place in the north wall; the tapering chimney breast is of ashlar. This wall has an original wall-plate moulded like those of the great hall. The original roof here was a low cross gable but was afterwards heightened and gabled the other way in continuation of the hall roof and has a bay of similar king-post construction, but the common rafters are here halved together at the apex.

The solar wing, now the dining-room, is lighted by the large windows of the early 16th century. The stone shafts attached to the large middle mullions are octagonal with concave faces and moulded capitals. They have moulded plinths and the tops of the bases are level with the window-sills about 4 ft. above the floor. The flat soffit of the east window is treated with moulded ribs in hexagonal patterns and rosette bosses, perhaps a later 16th-century feature. In the south wall is a stone Tudor fire-place, the spandrels of which are carved with a Tudor rose and fleur-de-lis and foliage. The spandrels of the similarly moulded stone doorway into the southern extension are carved with a shield and a cross-shaped flower, both with foliage. The room is lined with Elizabethan panelling; the north wall is divided into three bays by panelled pilasters with moulded caps and fluted bases.

The bedroom over has an early-16th-century stone fire-place. The spandrels are carved with shields and tendril-like foliage and the stone frieze over the arch with a Tudor rose, a portcullis, and other devices. The ceiling is plastered and has encased beams. The attic of the second floor has a coved plastered ceiling and dormer windows.

The stone floor of the chapel is considerably lower than that of the dining-room. The chapel has a modern altar-piece and other fittings. There is a west gallery which has lost its parapet. On the floor lies the top rail of a 15th-century screen of the width of the chapel.² In the traceried south window are two medallions of Flemish glass with picture subjects. The floor of the gallery is 3½ ft. below that of the adjacent bedroom, in the former solar wing; it has a modern fire-place and restored windows. There is here an ancient table with incised rebuses of 'Oxenbridge' cut on the end standards, an ox, N, and a bridge.

East of the chapel is a staircase of well type and built of chamfered oak framing. The steps were formerly of solid oak, but are now modern treads and risers. It includes also a stair down to a cellar. The chamber south of it is thought by the owner to have been a kind of vestry or part of a priest's lodging, and the tiny wing, south-east of it, perhaps housed his private staircase. The wing is entered by an elliptically arched stone doorway. In the south wall of the chamber is a fire-place with rough stone jambs and elliptical arch and next west is a small recess with a similar head. In the west wall is another small recess or locker. The walls are lined with 17th-century panelling.

On the second floor of the main staircase remain two of the king-posts of the 15th-century roof of the east

¹ It is suggested by the owner that this was originally the newel of a staircase in the small south-east wing (see below) and

was adapted to its present position in the 17th century.

² This screen was still in position in

1860: *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xii, 220. Some fragments of it lie in the gallery.



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BREDE PLACE, WEST FRONT

John & Co.



BREDE: CONSTER



BREDE: BROAD OAK

wing; one stands free at the top of the stairs, the other is buried in the partition between the stairs and the south attic. They have stop-chamfered angles, moulded capitals and bases, and super posts with four-way struts below a central purlin, &c.

The room over the porch is lined with bolection-moulded panelling and has a frieze and cornice enriched with carved arabesque ornament and grotesque heads. In the north wall is a stone Tudor fire-place. The doorway from the (former) buttery wing has an early 16th-century moulded oak frame and the door is of linenfold panelling.

The small chambers in the two stories of the semi-octagonal bay on the west front contain no noticeable features. A pair of Tudor doorways opened into it on each floor, one from the great hall and one from the solar wing, but on both floors the northern is blocked up.

The ground rises considerably to the east of the house but the site was levelled and banked up so that there is a steep scarp to the west of the platform on which it stands. There are some good ornamental gardens behind the house and a fair number of decoratively clipped yew-trees. What appears to be a sunken and disused road, to the south of the house and approaching it from the east, may have been the original means of access. Near it is a broad green sward by the side of which are trees planted by M. Clemenceau 1909, Viscount Milner 1909, the Crown Princess of Roumania 1911, and Mr. Rudyard Kipling 1920.

Broad oak Manor House¹ is of late-15th-century origin and had a middle hall about 18 ft. long and 18½ ft. wide and of two bays. East of the hall was a solar wing about 11½ ft. wide and west of it a buttery wing of two 10 ft. bays. The house is built of timber-framing, the lower story mostly underbuilt with later brick. A central chimney-stack with the usual wide fire-places was inserted in the narrower western bay of the hall about 1600, and the wall between the hall and the ground floor of the solar was removed, leaving the original embattled wall-beam as a ceiling-beam to the large east room. The middle roof-truss of the hall has a heavy cambered tie-beam supported by arched braces, and an octagonal king-post with moulded capital and base. It is unusual for a buttery wing to be more than one bay in length: this one is of two bays: it has an open timbered ceiling to the lower story and on the upper a plain roof of king-post type with longitudinal struts below the middle purlin. In the attics can be seen some original plaster combing, wavy lines between vertical pairs of straight lines. The framing exposed outside shows a number of curved struts to the angle posts, &c. The east side of the solar wing has the upper story jettied. The roof is thatched and ridged from end to end; the ends are now hipped but were probably gabled originally. At the west end are later extensions and in front is a modern porch.

Conster Manor,² north of Broad oak, appears to date from about 1350. The plan of the old part is rectangular and of three bays of about 14 ft. each and 23½ ft. wide. The original house had a great hall of two bays, an east cross-wing, and probably a west cross-wing. A number of smoke-blackened rafters from the

original hall-roof have been re-used in the roof. The old roof-trusses have gone, but heavy (12-inch) wall-posts and the remains of the chamfered tie-beam between the middle and western bay, cut away for a modern flue at the back of the 16th-century central stack, have long mortices for former curved braces such as would have existed in an arched roof-truss in the middle of a hall.

The two end wall-beams of the hall are of a good characteristic mid-14th-century moulding and the wall-plates of both middle and western bays are mostly still in place and are of similar moulding.³ The west bay was clearly an integral part of the great hall, but it seems to have been converted into two stories quite early, probably in the 15th century, and the hall reduced to one bay. The ground-floor ceiling has wide flat joists running north and south, and a middle main beam, which has a long mortice for a curved brace at its west end and mortices for a former partition, while a west wall-post in the same position in the upper story also has a long mortice for a similar brace, all suggesting that there were trusses which would serve the bay if it was a cross-wing but would not fit in with a great hall.

The east wall of the hall has been removed on the ground floor to make one large chamber with most of the east cross-wing, and the moulded wall-beam now serves as a ceiling-beam. In the upper story the north half of this wall remains and has two curved struts against the middle and northern posts. The wing has original wide, flat, ceiling joists, 9 in. by 5 in. The east entrance has a Tudor arched doorway, and the east wall has a jettied upper story carried on curved brackets and the projecting ends of the ceiling joists. The middle bay has exposed ceiling joists of the 16th century and a brick floor. Nearly all the western half of it is taken up by the great fire-place, which is 10 ft. 4 in. wide between the jambs and 4 ft. 4 in. deep: it has a seated recess in the south reveal and lockers in the back. Much of the framing has been replaced by re-used timbers. The panels in the north and east walls are more or less square. In the south front the lower story is of modern brick: the upper story has a modern sill and thin studding, probably of the 18th century. The timber walls stand on foundations, a yard or more high, of old masonry and later bricks. The west wall is tile-hung.

Sowdens, 1½ miles east of Broad oak, is a 15th-century timber-framed house which consisted of a great hall of two bays of 13½ and 10 ft., and an east cross-wing, probably the solar. The present western part is of the 17th century, and at the back is an 18th-century wing with a Mansard roof. Upper floors and the central chimney-stack were inserted in the great hall about 1600. The building has been restored by the present owner and the original king-post truss between the two bays of the hall exposed. The truss has a plain cambered tie-beam, the curved struts of which have disappeared. The king-post is octagonal with moulded capital and base and carries four-way struts. Some of the wide flat rafters are smoke-blackened.

The framing of the east wall of the hall has curved and ogee struts. The original moulded wall-beams remain

¹ The title of Manor House is modern and unjustified. For an account of the house see *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxi, 136-47.

² There is no evidence that Conster was ever a manor. Late in the 15th century the estate belonged to Edward Lumnes or Londnes, whose daughter and

heir married William Odiarne: Early Chan. Proc. 343, nos. 18-21. Richard son of Robert Londnes succeeded to the property in 1524; Peter Farden held it in 1639 and it passed through the family of Gott to Edward Frewen (c. 1730) in whose family

it remained until 1926: Brede Court Rolls.

³ The moulding is a three-quarter hollow between two or two pairs of quirked quarter-rounds and differs completely from the usual 15th-century moulding.

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in the east and west walls in the lower story. The chimney-stack inserted in the narrower west bay of the hall has 9 ft.-wide fire-places. The east wing has wide, flat ceiling joists and the upper story of the east end is jettied. The beam crossing the opening of a bay-window under the overhang shows the mortices of diamond-shaped mullions of an original wide window.

The exterior has been much renovated: the lower story of the front is of brick: the upper story and the east wall are timber-framed, mostly with modern studs, &c. The west end is weather-boarded.

'Moorsholm', formerly 'Coggers',¹ south-west of Broadoak, dates from the end of the 16th century and is timber-framed. The lower story of the front was faced with brick in the 18th century and a brick porch-wing of two stories was added. The plan is L-shaped, facing north-east. The front block has original ceiling-beams and a wide fire-place with an oak bressummer notched for a former roasting-jack or crane. The middle room has remains of unusual plaster decoration of panels filled with a diaper pattern, stamped with an iron mould. The back wing has an open-timbered ceiling and large fire-place and oven. The roof is of plain collar-beam type. It is tiled, and the central chimney-shaft above it is of the local cross-shaped form in thin bricks. There is an ancient small barn north of the house with curved braces to the tie-beams and in the side walls. The roof is modern.

The Hundred House, about a mile east of Broadoak, and Maidlands, a little north of this, are timber-framed houses of the 16th century with 17th-century additions. Brede High Farm, Frymans, Austin's Farm, and a cottage at Goatham Green are also timber-framed and have central chimney-stacks of 17th-century brick. There are a number of 17th-century houses, mostly with central stacks and wide fire-places, as for instance, The Twitten, at Broadoak, Reysons Farm, Shearfold, the Red Lion Inn, and another house in the village which bears a tablet inscribed—JOHN AND MARY WEST MDCCCLX.

The land rises from 16 ft. in the valley of the Brede, the southern boundary, to 300 ft. in the north. The area is 4,824 acres land, 6 inland water; the subsoil Hastings Beds and alluvium in the valley of the Brede, the soil loam, the chief crops wheat, peas, beans, and hops. The Brede River is navigable as far as Brede bridge.² There were ironworks here in Roman times,³ and they seem to have been restarted about 1578 by the family of Welshe. In that year the inhabitants of Hastings, Rye, and Winchelsea complained that they were likely to suffer great shortage of wood thereby.⁴ In a bill of 1581 for the preservation of woods, the forge was stated to be 5 miles from Rye and one from Brede bridge, where the wood was put on lighters for Winchelsea and Rye.⁵ About this time Robert Welshe had

trouble with Sir Robert Tyrwhit of Haremere in Etchingham touching a watercourse serving the 'iron-mill, forge or hammer' erected on Robert's 'manor' of Brede.⁶ John Sackville, owner of an iron furnace in Brede and Udimore, was succeeded in 1619 by his son Thomas;⁷ a Thomas Sackville in 1676–7 conveyed it to John Brown,⁸ who sold two iron-mills in 1693 to Thomas and Maximilian Western⁹ of Essex.¹⁰ In 1717 cannon were made here. The furnace ceased about 1766; and powder-mills erected a few years later on the site existed until 1825, when the extensive ponds were drained for a hop-garden; but in 1929 Hastings Corporation made a reservoir on the site.¹¹ There was formerly a glass factory,¹² and in 1835 there was an excellent stone quarry at Brede Hill and a pottery of some 80 years' standing on the estate of Thomas Tucker.¹³

In spite of the fuel consumed in the days of the iron industry the parish is still well wooded, Great and Little Park Wood lying to the east of the village of Brede, Park Wood, Steephill Wood, and North Wood to the west. In 1296 three tax-payers are described as 'ater Melne'.¹⁴ There was a mill attached to the manor in 1609;¹⁵ a windmill is mentioned from 1615¹⁶ onwards, a fulling-mill in 1667;¹⁷ and from 1672 three watermills and a windmill in Brede and Udimore.¹⁸

The Methodist chapel at Brede was erected in 1833¹⁹ and registered for marriages in 1875.²⁰ Brede School Board was formed in 1877.²¹ Hastings County Borough Smallpox Hospital was built here in 1902.²²

Richard Kilburne, the Kentish topographer, was steward in 1650 of the manor of Brede;²³ and William Durrant Cooper, of Brede Place, earned a considerable reputation as an antiquary (1812–75).²⁴

BREDE was included in Canute's grant *MANORS* of Sussex territory to Fécamp Abbey in about 1030.²⁵ The grant was annulled by Godwin and his sons, but renewed by William the Conqueror in the event of his success in England.²⁶

In 1086 Brede is not mentioned, but was evidently included in 'Rameslie', a possession of Fécamp, assessed at 20 hides and including Rye and Winchelsea and part of Hastings. Robert de Hastings and Herolf were under-tenants of 2½ hides and ½ hide respectively.²⁷ Henry III took Winchelsea and Rye (q.v.) away from Fécamp Abbey in exchange for other lands, but part of Hastings is still appurtenant to the manor of Brede,²⁸ and was described in 1849 as extending from the south-west corner of Court-House Street and High Street, at which formerly stood Maidenhead Inn, where the adjourned courts baron of Brede had been held, eastward along the south side of High Street and through Court-House Street and All Saints Street to the great meadow on the Minnis rock.²⁹

Except when the alien priories were in the hands of the Crown during the Hundred Years' War, the abbots

¹ The house takes its name from Robert Moorsom, who bought it in 1866. In 1636 it was called the Well House and was held by Peter Farnden, from whose relative Elizabeth Cogger (1681) it passed to her son William Cogger: Brede Court Rolls.

² The Sacrist's Rolls of Battle show that supplies for the abbey, as for instance in 1509 lead bought in London for the roof of the Lady Chapel, were brought by water as far as Brede bridge. In the thirteenth century there was a ferry below the bridge: Phillipps Deeds, no. 1042, penes Mr. J. E. Ray.

³ *V.C.H. Sussex*, iii, 32; Straker,

Wealden Iron, 341–8.

⁴ *Acts of P.C. 1577–8*, p. 265.

⁵ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii, App. iv, 75.

⁶ Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), bdle. 13, no. 103.

⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccclxxxi, 140.

⁸ Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 28–9 Chas. II.

⁹ Ibid. Hil. 4 & 5 Will. and Mary.

¹⁰ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* ii, 207.

¹¹ Ibid. ii, 207; lxvii, 43, 47, 52; lxx, 219.

¹² Ibid. lvi, 167.

¹³ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 513–15.

¹⁴ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, 15–16.

¹⁵ *Recov. R. Trin.* 7 Jas. I, ro. 28.

¹⁶ Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 12 Jas. I.

¹⁷ Ibid. East. 19 Chas. II.

¹⁸ Ibid. Mich. 24 Chas. II, Hil. 25–6 Chas. II, Trin. 26 Chas. II, Hil. 4 & 5 Will. and Mary.

¹⁹ Horsfield, loc. cit.

²⁰ *London Gaz.* 4 May, p. 2407.

²¹ Ibid. 16 Jan. p. 215.

²² Kelly, *Directory* (1934).

²³ *Dict. Nat. Biog.* ²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ *Engl. Hist. Rev.* xxxiii, 342–3.

²⁶ *Neustria Pia*, 223.

²⁷ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 375, 391b.

²⁸ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* ii, 166–7.

²⁹ Ibid.; cf. ibid. vi, 66–7.

of Fécamp held Brede until the alien priories were dissolved.¹ Henry IV apparently granted the custody of the Fécamp lands to Sir John Cornwayle and Elizabeth his wife, the king's sister, and in 1403 Sir John, Elizabeth, and Hugh Veretot (the monastic bailiff in Sussex) held a joint court for the manor of Brede.² Sir John died in 1443, and next year Edmund Bishop of Exeter conveyed the Fécamp property, lately held for life by Sir John Cornwayle, to the newly founded monastery of Syon;³ and in 1461 Edward IV confirmed,⁴ a papal confirmation following.⁵ Syon remained in possession until the Dissolution.⁶ The manor, rectory, and advowson were granted in 1541 in fee to Sir Anthony Browne in exchange for other lands.⁷ His son Sir Anthony,⁸ Viscount Montagu, died seised in 1592, leaving a grandson and heir Anthony Maria, the second viscount, son of his son Anthony.⁹ Sir Henry Browne, uncle of the second viscount,¹⁰ was dealing with the manor in 1609 and 1616.¹¹ It must have been sold soon afterwards, as courts were held in 1639 and 1640 for John Henden.¹² In 1647 Charles Tufton and Sarah his wife owned the manor,¹³ and from 1650 onwards courts were held for them.¹⁴ Sarah Tufton, widow, was concerned with the manor in 1653,¹⁵ and is probably the Sarah who with her husband William Cave made a settlement the following year.¹⁶ From 1669 to 1675 courts were held for Thomas Bristowe,¹⁷ but in 1676 Thomas Bromfield held his first court, and from this time the manor descended with Udimore (q.v.) until 1882,¹⁸ after which Brede manor was purchased by Messrs. Beaumont,¹⁹ from whom it passed to the present owner, Mr. John E. Ray.

The manor of *FORD alias BREDE PLACE* may perhaps be traced back as far as Robert atte Forde, who was taxed at 12s. in Brede in 1296.²⁰ It was held of the manor of Brede.²¹ One of the Oxenbridges of Beckley is said to have purchased Brede Place from Joan atte Forde.²² Robert Oxenbridge²³ also acquired an estate here from Sir Alan Boxhull, who in 1405 sold to him the reversion of 30 acres of land and 13s. 4d. rent in Brede, Udimore, and Ewhurst that Alice widow of John Oxenbridge²⁴ held in dower.²⁵ His son Robert was followed by a son Robert who made in 1483 a will directing that he was to be buried in the Lady Chapel of the church of St. George of Brede and leaving his house and lands at Ford to his wife for life. He died in March 1487. His eldest son Thomas, whose will was proved Feb. 1497, directed masses to be said in the chapel of his house at Ford. His brother, Sir Godard

Oxenbridge, who married the daughter and co-heir of Sir Thomas Echingham of Etchingham, succeeded to the manors of 'Forde, Enham, and Gyles (Goteley)'. He died 1531, having bequeathed Brede Place as a dower-house to his (second) wife Anne Fiennes; he was to be buried in the Lady Chapel at Brede. Thomas, his son by his first wife, received Etchingham, and Brede Place reverted to his son by his second wife, Sir Robert.²⁶ His only son Robert was succeeded in 1590-1 by a son Robert who died seised of the above three manors in 1616, and his eldest son Robert, knighted 1619 and a Member of Parliament,²⁷ joined with his brothers in a sale of this property in 1624 to Thomas Dyke, esq. (of Horeham, afterwards knighted), Peter Farnden of Sedlescombe, and John Porter of Lamberhurst.²⁸ The Dykes in 1671 sold their share to Richard son of George Parker of Ratton; and in 1708 the Porters conveyed their share to the Frewens of Brickwall.²⁹ It was sold in 1936 by Comr. Oswald Frewen to his nephew R. Brinsley Sheridan.

The church of *ST. GEORGE* consists *CHURCH* of a chancel, north vestry, south chapel, nave, north and south aisles, south porch, and west tower. It is built of stone and the roofs are covered with tiles.

The church dates from the latter part of the 12th century and may have had transeptal chapels, and possibly a tower at the west end of the south aisle. Three arches in the south wall of the nave are of this period. Early in the 13th century a north aisle was added to the nave. Late in the 14th century the eastern arches of both north and south arcades were constructed and the chancel arch was rebuilt. In the 15th century the chancel was also rebuilt,³⁰ the south aisle was widened, and the present tower was built. About 1530 the south chapel was built at the east of the south aisle. The vestry and the present south porch are modern. The church was restored at various periods between 1868 and 1916.

When the chancel was rebuilt it appears to have been widened, particularly on the south side; its axial line is now south of that of the chancel arch and is deflected from that of the nave. The east window is of four



OXENBRIDGE. Gules a lion argent in a border vert charged with eight scallops argent.

¹ Round, *Cal. Doc. France*, 50-1; *Cur. Reg. R.* i, 276; *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 216; *Feud. Aids*, v, 133; *Cal. Fine R.* x, 328. In 1276 and 1410 the manor was claimed to be ancient demesne of the Crown (*Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 216; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 11 Hen. IV, no. 10), though a jury of 1288 returned that according to Domesday Book it was not: *Abbrev. Plac.* (Rec. Com.), 216.

² Court R. (P.R.O.), bdle. 205, no. 59, m. 13.

³ *Cal. Pat.* 1441-6, p. 254; *Suss. Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xxiii), no. 3070.

⁴ *Cal. Pat.* 1461-7, p. 144.

⁵ *Cal. Pap. Reg.* v, 553a.

⁶ *Rent. & Surv.* (P.R.O.), bdle. 18, no. 36, bdle. 15, nos. 50-1, bdle. 20, no. 50; *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), i, 424-6.

⁷ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xvi, g. 947 (43).

⁸ *Inq. p.m.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xiv), 179.

⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccxxv, 110.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 61; *Recov. R.* Trin. 7 Jas. I, ro. 28.

¹² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* ii, 167-8.

¹³ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 6.

¹⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* ii, 167.

¹⁵ *Recov. R.* Trin. 1653, ro. 15.

¹⁶ Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 1654.

¹⁷ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* ii, 167; Court R. of Brede.

¹⁸ Ibid.; *ibid.* xiv, 115-16; Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 10 Geo. I; *Recov. R.* Trin. 32-3, Geo. II, ro. 161, Mich. 45 Geo. III, ro. 402.

¹⁹ Hardy & Page docts.

²⁰ *Subs. R.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. x), 15-16.

²¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* vi, 68-9; *Suss. Inq.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xxxiii), 112.

²² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* viii, 214. A John Oxenbridge atte Forde occurs in 1378: *Harl. Chart.* 76 D. 46.

²³ He seems to have leased the main

manor from Sir John Cornwayle, as in 1414 he held a court for the manor of Brede: Court R. (P.R.O.), bdle. 205, no. 61, m. 6.

²⁴ Cf. *Cal. Pat.* 1408-13, p. 126; *ibid.* 1429-36, p. 168.

²⁵ *Add. Chart.* 24892; Feet of F. Suss. East. 6 Hen. IV.

²⁶ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* viii, 216-26. Cf. *Cal. Pat.* 1476-85, pp. 353, 370, 394, 575; Feet of F. (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix), 171-2; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lii, 116.

²⁷ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* viii, 229; *Suss. Inq.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xxxiii), 112.

²⁸ Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 22 Jas. I.

²⁹ Horsfield, loc. cit.

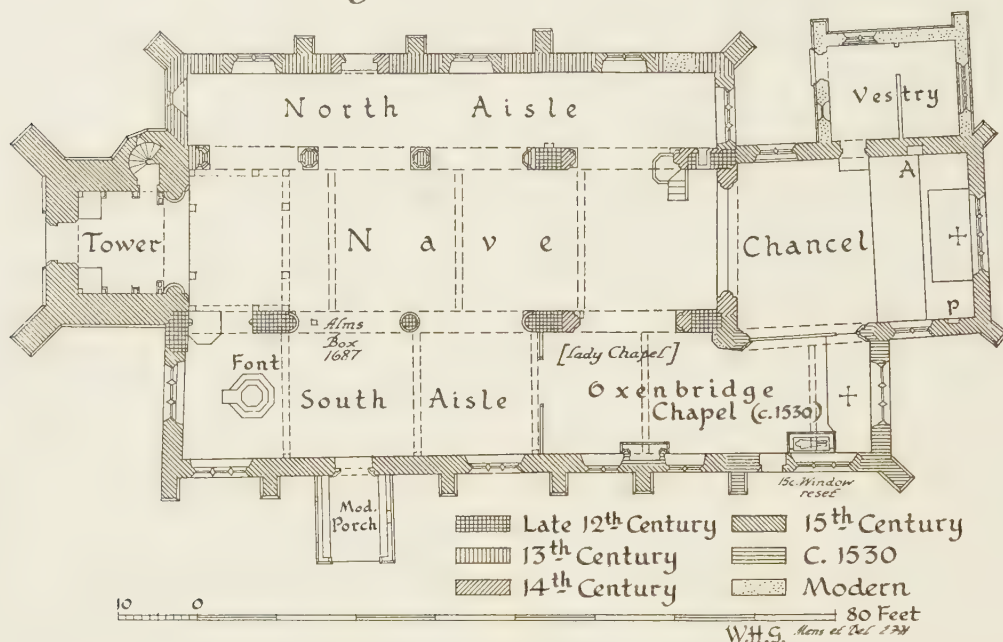
³⁰ John Oxenbridge in 1493 left money towards rebuilding the chancel: P.C.C. 51 Vox. He desired to be buried before the altar of St. Stephen. Thomas Oxenbridge left money for glazing 'his chancel' in 1496: P.C.C. 5 Horne.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

cinquefoiled lights with tracery in a pointed head. In the north wall is a doorway with a four-centred head, restored, now opening into the modern vestry, and west of the doorway a similar window of two lights. Near the east end of the wall is an aumbry. In the south wall is a window similar to that on the north but that its sill is carried down to form a sedile, and to the east of the window is a piscina with a pointed head. The

The western part of the north wall is pierced by an arcade (c. 1230) of three pointed arches of two plain chamfered orders springing from octagonal pillars and semi-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases, and plain square plinths. On the south side is an arcade, of about 1180, of two pointed arches with a round pillar and semicircular responds. The capitals and bases are moulded and the bases stand upon square

PARISH CHURCH of ST. GEORGE - BREDE



western portion of the wall is pierced by a wide elliptical arch, of about 1530, to the south chapel. This arch is of two orders, both cut in the same voussoirs, and springs from semi-octagonal responds with capitals carved with flowers and leaves and plain unmoulded bases. At the east respond, incorporated in the capital and continued below it, is an achievement of arms: 1. Oxenbridge, 2. Hopton, 3. Ore, 4. Echingham.¹ The chancel arch is pointed and of two plain-chamfered orders and has semi-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases.

There is no structural division between the south chapel and the south aisle: the east wall having been removed entirely when the chapel was built. The east window is of three trefoiled lights with flamboyant tracery in a pointed head: it is contemporary with the chapel and is a rare example of the use of flamboyant tracery at so late a date. The doorway in the south wall, with a carved label, is of the same period. The window east of the doorway dates from the 15th century and is probably the east window of the aisle, reset. It is of three lights with perpendicular tracery in a pointed head.

The eastern portion of the nave has on either side a wide arch, similar to the chancel arch: the bases of the responds have been much mutilated, only that on the north-east being complete. At the east end of the north wall is the doorway to a rood loft 8 ft. up from the floor: it has a flat head and before the sill is a corbelled ledge for the support of the rood loft. The doorway is approached by a flight of high steps through the wall from a doorway in the north aisle, 4 ft. up from the floor.

plinths. Farther west is a contemporary pointed arch, springing from a much higher level. The inner order takes the form of a chamfered rib and springs from small respond shafts with moulded capitals and abaci, the abaci being continued across the face of the jamb and cut off flush with the wall on both sides. The lower parts of the shafts with the bases have been cut away. This may have opened into an earlier tower, and at the south side of the east jamb is the springer and chamfered impost of the original arch which spanned the aisle. The pointed arch to the present tower is of three orders, the two outer, with hollow chamfers, being continued to stops at the base, and the inner order falling on large semicircular responds with moulded capitals and bases: the bases have a simple hollow moulding.

In the east wall of the north aisle there is a window of three lights with tracery in a pointed head, and in the north wall are three two-light windows, all inserted in the 15th century. In the west wall there is an early lancet window with a restored head. The north doorway, of the late 14th century, has a pointed head of two moulded orders and a label with returned stops. An opening, now blocked, has been made at some period at the east end of the north wall.

The south aisle is 6 ft. wider than the north. Two windows in the south wall and one in the west wall, each of three lights, are similar to that in the south wall of the chapel: the tracery of that at the south-west has been renewed. Three other windows, two at the east end of the south wall and one over the south doorway, each of two lights under square heads, are of the same period. The south doorway has a four-centred head of

¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxxviii, 220.



BREDE CHURCH, FROM THE NORTH-EAST: 1806
(From a drawing in the Sharpe Collection)



UDMORE CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST, c. 1785
(From a drawing in the Burrell Collections)

two moulded orders. A corbel formed out of 13th-century mouldings with dog-tooth ornament is built into the north wall of the aisle at the east end of the arcade, and early mouldings are built into the face of the south wall outside.

The nave and south aisle have open timber roofs with king-post trusses; both are 15th-century work restored. Old timbers are also re-used in the roofs of the north aisle and of the porch.

The tower, which is built of ironstone ashlar, is of three stages with angle buttresses at the west and a stair turret at the north-east. It is surmounted by an embattled parapet and a low timber spire. The west doorway resembles that in the north aisle. Above is a four-light window with modern tracery. The second stage has on each side but the east a single trefoiled light, and on each side of the bell-chamber is a window of two trefoiled lights in a square head. The spire retains its original timber framework and is covered with shingles.

The 15th-century font is octagonal with plain sides. In the south aisle there is a 15th-century oak screen. Near the south door is an alms-box on a stand, carved in relief with the initials of the churchwardens A. F. and R. W. and the date 1687, and a large chest of Flemish workmanship, elaborately carved with biblical and other scenes, dated 1633. The church also possesses a copy of the 'Vinegar' Bible and a cradle reputed to be that used in infancy by Dean Swift. Some fragments of medieval glass collected from windows in the church about 1868, including the figure of an abbot, are set in the window over the south doorway: and another fragment, a portion of a figure in ermine mantle and red robe, is in the east window of the chapel.

Against the south wall of the chapel, removed from the floor nearby, is a slab with brass figure and inscription to Robert Oxenbridge, died 1487, and his wife Ann, died 1493. Only the feet and a portion of the left leg of the effigy of the man remain, but the effigy of the lady is complete: she wears a veil over her head, a long gown, fur cuffs, and mantle: her hands are in attitude of prayer. There is also a brass inscription of about 1500 to Margery and Katherine Oxenbridge.¹

Against the wall below the south window of the chapel is a stone table tomb with recumbent effigy to Sir Goddard Oxenbridge, died 1531. The tomb has a moulded edge and base and panelled sides, all bearing shields of arms. The shield on the east is quarterly, I & 4 Oxenbridge, 2 & 3 Ore. On the west Oxenbridge. On the north I. Oxenbridge impaling Echingham. II. Oxenbridge. III. Oxenbridge impaling two coats: upper, Dacre: lower, Fiennes. The effigy wears mail and plate of the period, genouillères, and sabbatons: the sword is missing: his head rests on a helm and at his feet is a lion. The stone on which the effigy is carved is let into the top slab of the tomb. The monu-

ment was constructed in 1537, and that date is marked on the wall at the back.

There are six bells. 1 by Mears & Co., 1779; 2, 4, and 5 by John Wilner, 1628; 3 is a medieval bell having a shield of the royal arms and the inscription *Sancte Thoma Ora Pro Nobis*; 6 was recast in 1909 from a bell bearing the inscription 'I. W. made me 1637'.²

The church plate consists of a silver chalice of 1887; a silver paten of 1887; and two small silver boxes.³

The registers begin in 1559.

The church of Brede seems to have *ADVOWSON* been one of the five churches of 'Rameslie' in 1086. Laurence, rector of Brede, had a dispute with the abbot concerning tithes in about 1199, but made a final submission, at the pope's command, in 1203.⁴ Laurence had been presented by Fécamp Abbey at the instance of King John, and this led Edward I to set up a claim to the patronage in 1279,⁵ but the abbot retained possession, the Crown presenting during the French wars,⁶ until the possessions of Fécamp were seized in 1413, and later were granted to Syon Abbey,⁷ the pope confirming in 1464.⁸ In 1541 the advowson and rectory were granted to Sir Anthony Browne with the manor, and descended with it till 1612-13.⁹ In 1686 Samuel Symonds, clerk, in 1702 George Elfred, in 1768 George Horne, D.D., presented,¹⁰ the last named being Bishop of Norwich in 1790. The Rev. Robert Hele Selby Hele, who presented in 1821,¹¹ sold the advowson in 1834 to David Bevan for his son, the Rev. D. B. Bevan, who in 1841 sold it to the Rev. J. H. Maher, from whom it passed in 1849 to Thomas Frewen,¹² and since that date it has belonged to the Frewen family.

The Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, *CHARITIES* Burial Ground and Trust Property at Broad Oak, comprised in various indentures dated between 13 December 1833 and 13 April 1889, is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners of 23 March 1921 which provides that the property shall be held upon the same trusts as 'The Wesleyan Chapel Model Deed'.

The Rev. Robert Hele Selby Hele, by his will proved in the P.C.C. on 10 April 1840, gave £300, the income to be used towards the support of a Sunday school. The rector and churchwardens are the trustees. The endowment consists of stock held by the Official Trustees, producing about £7 10s. per annum.

Henry Noakes, by his will proved in London on 9 July 1924, gave an annual sum of £2 10s. to be paid to the trustees of the Wesleyan chapel at Brede for the purchase of Bibles for distribution to children of the Sunday school in connexion with the said chapel.

Marion Johnson and another, by deed dated 20 July 1931, conveyed to trustees a piece of land in the parish to be used by the Brede Women's Institute and the Brede Branch of the British Legion, or other similar society.

¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxxvi, 89-90.

² *Ibid.* xvi, 201.

³ *Ibid.* lv, 200.

⁴ Round, *Cal. Doc. France*, 50-1.

⁵ *Plac. de Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 749.

⁶ *Cal. Pat., passim.*

⁷ *Ibid.* 1461-7, pp. 144-5.

⁸ *Cal. Pap. Reg.* v, 553a. The advowson was granted with the rape in 1462 to Lord Hastings, probably in error: *Cal. Pat.* 1461-7, p. 138; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxxvii, 42.

⁹ See above and *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lv, 236.

¹⁰ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² Add. MS. 39469, fols. 58-61.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

UDIMORE

Dodimere (xi cent.); Odumer (xii cent.); Hudimere, Udemere, Odemore (xiii cent.); Ealdymere, Oldemere (xv cent.); Wodymer (xvi cent.).

The parish of Udimore, lying south of the River Tillingham and north of Brede Channel, is chiefly composed of scattered farm-houses. To it was added by the Divided Parishes Act of 1876 Cockmarling, a detached portion of Brede parish containing 6 houses. By the East Sussex Review Order (1934) further detached portions of Brede and Rye Foreign were added to this parish and detached portions of Udimore were transferred to Brede.¹ The only public buildings beside the church are a Parish Room, erected 1914, Rye Isolation Hospital, built 1907, and a Methodist chapel.² The Battle to Rye road runs through the parish, which has very diversified scenery of woodland, valley, and hill, the elevation varying from 25 to 250 ft. The area of the civil parish is 2,288 acres, the subsoil Hastings Beds and alluvium, the soil loam. The population in 1931 was 365 in the civil parish, which is slightly larger than the ecclesiastical. Udimore is largely composed of land 'inned' before the 14th century, the present valley of the Tillingham being called in the 17th century 'Udimore Bay'.³

Lawrence Lennard, who died in 1605, was a tenant of the Sackville iron-furnace at Little Udimore and was succeeded by a son Richard.⁴ There is a fire-back of 1636 representing Richard Lennard, with his tools and iron-furnace.⁵

Billingham is a brick and tile-hung farm-house of c. 1600 facing south-east. Some of the original timber-framing can be seen in the back wall, as well as a disused long window of eight lights with ovolo-moulded mullions. The central chimney-stack has a wide fire-place and a plain square shaft above the tiled roof.

A house opposite the roadway to the church is of 15th-century origin, the north half being an early-16th-century extension. The original 15th-century south half has undergone various alterations, the south front bearing a panel inscribed I W 1714. The interior shows some heavy timbering in walls and ceilings. The roof has been partly altered, but the north wall is original and has heavy curved braces, tie-beam, and strutted king-post of the 15th century. The north extension has its lower walls of stone, probably original, and the upper of timber-framing, repaired with old timbers. The lower now has a fine ceiling with moulded principal beams and stop-chamfered joists, and a great fire-place with stone jambs and brick back and a massive oak lintel. Farther east on the road to Rye is a 17th-century house, which is thatched and has a central chimney of thin bricks: the front is of thin framing and much of the upper story is jettied. Another, opposite the latter, with a tile-hung front, also has a central chimney-stack of 17th-century bricks.

The old manor-house, Court Lodge, having been pulled down, was purchased by Mr. Lawson Wood,

the artist, in 1912 and re-erected at Groombridge, near Tunbridge Wells.

Knellstone, which stands on upland overlooking the Brede valley, was inhabited in the 17th century by the Freebodies,⁶ a family paying taxes here in 1327.⁷ The present owner is Capt. M. K. North, of Chesham, Bucks. It has a main block (c. 1500) facing north with an overhanging upper story, and a projecting north-east wing also with an overhanging upper story on its three free sides. The wing is slightly later than the main block and the jettied front of the latter is seen inside the wing. There are no traces of a great hall. A central chimney-stack was inserted in the main block and another, with three square shafts set diagonally, added to the east side of the wing later in the 16th century. Later additions are built at the back and in modern times the main block has been lengthened to the west, old material being used for it. The north front and the wing are of closely set timber-framing, some of it renewed; the east end is of square framing. The wing has a moulded bressummer. The main block has a doorway with a four-centred arch in a square head with rose and foliage spandrels, possibly modern. A similar doorway, but of more ancient appearance, pierces the west wall of the wing right against the face of the main block. Some original diamond-shaped mullions remain in an upper window in the west half of the main block and there appears to have been an oriel window in the upper story of the wing on its west side. Two two-light windows on the north front of the wing may be original openings. An Elizabethan window of three lights, with moulded framing, was inserted in the east wall of the wing. The ceiling-beams and joists in the main block are fairly plain, but the wing has moulded beams and two diagonal dragon-beams to support the overhang at the angles. In the east part of the main block is a staircase with an Elizabethan newel. The roof above the middle part has side-purlins with wind-braces of the usual late-15th- or early-16th-century type. There are cellars below the west part, partly of stone.

Udimore was on the direct route to Winchelsea, and Edward I stayed here, no doubt at the Echingham manor-house, in November 1295, and from 12 to 17 August 1297,⁸ before leaving for Flanders. When the Spanish naval attack was beaten off in August 1350 Queen Philippe and her ladies watched the fight from these uplands, and at William de Echingham's house the royal party, including the king, the Black Prince, and John of Gaunt, may have celebrated their victory that night.⁹

UDIMORE, assessed at 6 hides, was held *MANOR* before the Conquest by Algar of Earl Godwin. In 1086 it was in the fee of the Count of Eu;¹⁰ and it continued to be held of the barony of Hastings until the 17th century.¹¹

The under-tenant in 1086 was Reinbert the sheriff, founder of the Echingham family, and this manor descended with Etchingham (q.v.), of which it was

¹ Kelly, *Directory*.

² From about 1822 to 1863 the Methodist services were held in Jordans, a medieval hall-house pulled down in 1929, from 1863 to 1882 in Loneham, another ancient house, demolished in 1911: Hodson, *Udimore*.

³ Hodson, *Udimore*, 3.

⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xii, 270.

⁵ *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, pl. opp. p. 242.

⁶ Hodson, op. cit.; *Inq. p.m.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xiv), nos. 424-6.

⁷ *Subs.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. x), pp. 211, 322-3.

⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1292-1301, *passim*; *Cal. Fine R.* 1272-1307, pp. 362, 365-6, 390.

⁹ Froissart (*Chron.* iv, 97) says 'two English leagues' from Winchelsea.

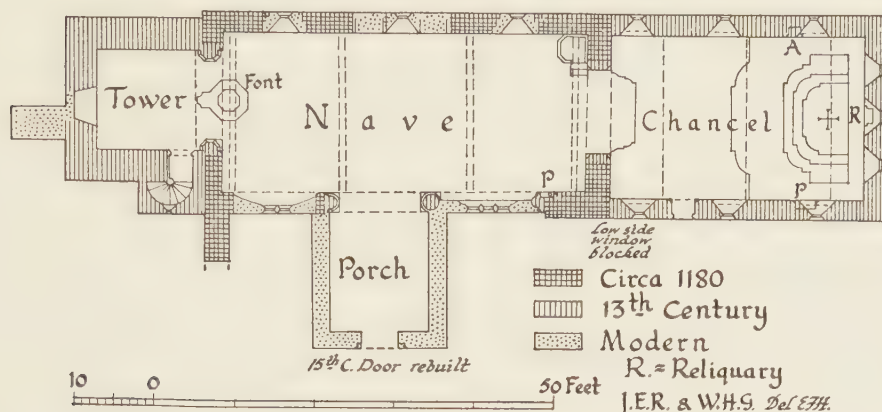
¹⁰ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 404b.

¹¹ *Feud. Aids*, v, 133, and manorial references. An exception is 1515, when Edward Elrington was stated to have held the manor of Syon Abbey as of the manor of Brede (*Suss. Inq.* [Suss. Rec. Soc. xiv], no. 376), no doubt by error, certain tenements descending with the manor being so held.

sometimes called a member, until 1482, when Sir Thomas Echingham's elder daughter and co-heir Margaret brought it to her second husband, Sir John Elrington. He received in 1479 licence to rebuild and fortify his manor-house here.¹ His wife died in 1481; and their son Edward succeeded his father in 1484, was Chief Butler under Edward V,² and died seised in 1515 leaving a young son Edward,³ who alienated it in 1536

Frederick Langford, sold the manor in 1882 to Richard Brettell, of Chertsey, and Henry Edwards Paine, who died in 1902 and 1918 respectively. Mrs. Emma Elizabeth Freeman, of Chertsey, and Mrs. Clara Freeman, of Canterbury, executrices of Henry Edwards Paine, were ladies of the manor in 1920.¹⁸ It was sold in 1921 to Mr. F. H. Chapman, and in 1924 to Mr. John E. Ray, who is now lord of the manor.

PARISH CHURCH of ST. MARY UDIMORE



to Andrew Lord Windsor.⁴ His son William, and grandson Edward Lord Windsor, made various settlements of the manor and advowson;⁵ and first Frederick succeeded his father Edward in Jan. 1575,⁶ then, in 1585, the younger son Henry,⁷ who in 1596 alienated the manor to Thomas Bromfield.⁸ John Bromfield of Ewhurst, by virtue of a settlement in 1607, succeeded his father Thomas in 1612 and died seised in 1623 leaving a young son and heir Thomas.⁹ Thomas, son of Thomas Bromfield, was concerned with the manor in 1667¹⁰ and was buried here 1690.¹¹ His grandson French, who succeeded in 1712, joined with his son John¹² in selling the manor in 1723-4 to Spencer Compton,¹³ afterwards Earl of Wilmington, the unpopular minister of George II. He died unmarried in 1743, bequeathing this property to his brother George Earl of Northampton.¹⁴ From him it descended to Elizabeth, daughter and heir of the seventh earl, Charles, who married, in 1782, Lord George Augustus Henry Cavendish,¹⁵ created Earl of Burlington in 1831. The property was sold by his grandson¹⁶ William Earl of Burlington in 1843 to Thomas Cooper Langford, of Parsonage Place, Udimore, who dying unmarried in 1845 was succeeded by his brother John.¹⁷ John's great-nephew, Thomas



BROMFIELD. *Sable a chevron argent charged with three sprigs of broom vert and a quarter or with a spearhead azure with drops of blood therein.*

In 1294 there belonged to the manor a windmill, 3 ponds, and payments of 1,000 herring.¹⁹ The windmill, messuage, garden, dovecote, 4 ponds, enclosed park ('le Fryth'), containing 1,000 deer and 200 acres of oak, are all recorded in 1329;²⁰ and mill and dovecotes continued to descend with it.

The church of *ST. MARY* consists of *CHURCH* a chancel, nave, south porch, and west tower. It is built of rubble with limestone dressings and the roofs are covered with tiles.

The church dates from the 12th century and appears to have consisted then of a chancel, nave, and south aisle: the existing nave and the arch at the west end of its south wall are of this period. The chancel and the tower were built about 1230 and the south aisle was rebuilt or extended about the same time. At some period the south aisle was destroyed and the three arches in the south wall of the nave were blocked. The porch is modern, but an early 15th-century doorway and a small window have been rebuilt in it.

The chancel remains much as when it was built in the 13th century and is a fine example of its period. It is lighted by tall lancet windows with a bold, round string-course running internally round the walls beneath their sills. There are three lancets in the east wall, the central one being higher than the others: three in the north wall, spaced widely apart; and three opposite them in the south wall. The internal jambs of the lancets have been scraped, but externally the stonework is untouched. A low-side window is formed below the south-west lancet by inserting a transom in

¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1476-85, p. 162.

² Hodson, loc. cit.

³ *Inq. p.m.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xiv), no. 516. From him Sir Edward Echingham claimed Etchingham (q.v.) and this manor: *Early Chan. Proc.* bdle. 502, nos. 35-6.

⁴ *Suss. Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xx), p. 451.

⁵ *Recov. R. Mich.* 5 Edw. VI, ro. 453; *Chan. Proc.* (Ser. 2), bdle. 146, no.

5; *Suss. Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xx), p. 451.

⁶ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), clxxiii 62.

⁷ *Inq. p.m.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xxxiii), no. 93.

⁸ *Suss. Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xx), p. 452.

⁹ *Inq. p.m.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xiv), no. 175.

¹⁰ *Recov. R. Mich.* 19 Chas. II, ro. 103.

¹¹ Hodson, loc. cit.

¹² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiv, 115-16.

¹³ *Suss. Fines*, loc. cit.

¹⁴ Hodson, loc. cit.

¹⁵ *G.E.C. Peerage* (2nd ed.), ii, 433-4. They were concerned with the property in 1792 and 1804: *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.); *Recov. R. Mich.* 45 Geo. III, ro. 402.

¹⁶ *G.E.C.* loc. cit.

¹⁷ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* ii, 168.

¹⁸ Hodson, loc. cit.

¹⁹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, no. 191.

²⁰ *Ibid.* vii, no. 175.

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line with the other sills. This is blocked but appears as a recess on the outside. Below the central lancet in the east wall is a recess for a reliquary: it is rebated for a door and has a flat wood lintel. At the east end of the south wall is a wide piscina with a segmental head, plain-chamfered jambs, and a circular bowl in the middle of the sill. Between the two westernmost lancets on the south is a pointed priest's doorway, plainly chamfered. The chancel arch is acutely pointed and of two orders. The narrow inner order springs on either side from a corbel and moulded abacus, the corbel having mouldings with dog-tooth ornament on the outer face but plain sides; the abacus is continued and returned on the east and west faces of the wall. The jambs have plain chamfers with stops at the bases and below the abaci.

In the north wall of the nave are three modern lancets, and two doorways with round arches blocked flush with the wall and covered with plaster on the inside: there are no visible details to indicate their dates. On the wall outside can be seen parts of jambs and arches of four other openings, also blocked, some of them probably associated with post-Reformation galleries, since taken down. The wall appears to have been heightened some 4 ft., probably in 1795, which date, in plaster, is faintly visible below the eaves of the roof. Two of the blocked openings occur at this level. At the east end of the south wall is a pointed piscina with a round bowl which is partly buried in the wall: the bowl is on the left side of the recess, leaving a space on the right for the cruets. Farther west is an arcade, of about 1230, of two pointed arches. They are of two plain-chamfered orders and spring from a circular pillar and semicircular responds with moulded capitals and bases. The capitals of the pillar and west respond are carved with upright foliated stalks with curled leaves. The jambs of the responds have also filleted edge-rolls with small moulded capitals. The east arch of the arcade is blocked and the infilling contains a modern square-headed window of three lights. The west arch is open to the porch. Beyond the west respond is another pointed arch, now blocked, dating probably from about 1180. It has a plain-chamfered edge and rises at the west from a hollow-chamfered impost. The infilling of this arch also contains a modern square-headed window. At the west of the nave is an acutely pointed arch, of about 1230, to the tower. It is of two plain-chamfered orders and springs from semi-octagonal responds with richly moulded capitals and bases. Rebuilt in the south wall of the porch is a moulded doorway of the early 15th century and, above it, a small window with modern external stonework. The roofs of the chancel and nave have some old rough tie-beams.

The tower is of two stages: it is built of rubble with thick mortar joints, and with limestone dressings, and the walls are plastered: it is surmounted by a low tiled pyramidal spire. A large modern buttress of brickwork against the west wall blocks the west doorway, rising in three off-sets to the eaves at the spire. Above the doorway is a modern window with a square head and there is a plain lancet, filled with boarding on the

north side of the bell-chamber. There is a turret stairway on the south-east.

The font is modern, but within the porch, now disused, is an octagonal font of wood, probably of the 17th century and designed like a baluster on a square pedestal. Beside the font is a piece of a 12th-century twisted shaft. On the floor of the sanctuary are several plain medieval yellow and deep brown tiles 9½ in. square. At the west end of the nave are other tiles, red and black, 7 in. square. On the floor of the chancel are four brass inscriptions. (1) to John Burdett, died 1605: (2) with twelve verses in English, to Sarah Brabon, wife of the vicar, died 1626: (3) to Martha Jorden, died 1635: (4) to Margaret Jorden, died 1636, aged 5. On the floor of the nave are three brass inscriptions: (1) with four Latin verses, to John Freebodye, died 1578: (2) to John Freebodye, died 1612: (3) with shield, to John Freebodye, died 1715.

There are three bells. 1 and 3 by Joseph Hatch, 1635: 2, no inscription.¹

The church plate consists of a silver chalice and a silver paten, both of 1897.²

The registers begin in 1558.

There was a church here at the time of the Domesday survey.³ It was given by Reinbert, the sheriff, with the permission of Robert Count of Eu, to the Collegiate church of St. Mary in Hastings castle and subsequently formed part of the prebend of Salehurst (q.v.). In 1291 it was taxed as 'the church of Salehurst with Udimore';⁴ and subsequently it appears as a vicarage, except that from 1792 to 1796 it was termed a perpetual curacy.⁵

The rectory and advowson descended with Salehurst until the Dissolution,⁶ when Robertsbridge and all its possessions were granted to Sir William Sidney.⁷ His son Sir Henry conveyed them in 1584 to William Burdett,⁸ who died seised Feb. 1592; and his son and heir John⁹ had livery, at his majority, in Feb. 1597.¹⁰ He died seised Feb. 1606 leaving an infant son William,¹¹ who died a minor in 1624, when his heirs were his sisters, Clemence, wife of Andrew Beeching, Anne (also called Agnes and Alice), and Sarah, wife of John Brabon,¹² vicar of Udimore. They received joint livery 1626.¹³ Sarah died that year¹⁴ and her heirs were her sister Anne, now wife of William Jorden, and John Beeching, the young son of her sister Clemence.¹⁵ Their representatives presented in 1632 and 1638,¹⁶ and they united in 1642 in conveying the rectory and advowson to Thomas Bromfield, senior and junior, and Edward Bromfield.¹⁷ Henceforth the rectory and advowson descended with the manor until 1879,¹⁸ when they were purchased by Mr. Alfred Holmes, whose executors were patrons in 1920.¹⁹ The living is now in the gift of Mr. A. K. Holmes.

Reginald Trayton Holmes, by his *CHARITIES* will dated 10 August 1926, bequeathed £1,000, the interest to be used for the upkeep of St. Mary's Church. The Parochial Church Council of Udimore are the trustees. The endowment produces about £50 per annum.

¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 227.

² *Ibid.* lv, 206.

³ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 404b.

⁴ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 137b.

⁵ Hodson, *op. cit.* 27.

⁶ Although for some reason in 1535 the Abbot of Robertsbridge paid Edward Elrington £70 for release of his right: *Cal. of Chart. and Doc. relating to the*

Abbey of Robertsbridge, no. 399.

⁷ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xvi, g. 1056 (77); *Inq.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xiv), no. 951.

⁸ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xx), p. 452.

⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccxxxiii, 40.

¹⁰ *Fine R.* 39 Eliz. pt. i, no. 44. The Crown presented to the living in 1600: *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xii, 258.

¹¹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccxci, 29a, 29b.

¹² *Inq.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xiv), no. 191.

¹³ *Fine R.* 2 Chas. I, pt. 3, no. 38.

¹⁴ Brass in Udimore Church.

¹⁵ *Inq.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xiv), no. 162;

Fine R. 16 Chas. I, pt. 2, no. 11.

¹⁶ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

¹⁷ *Fines*, loc. cit.

¹⁸ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.); *Clergy Lists*.

¹⁹ Hodson, *op. cit.* 23.

THE HUNDRED OF GUESTLING

CONTAINING THE PARISHES OF

FAIRLIGHT

ICKLESHAM

GUESTLING

PETT

AT the time of the Domesday Survey Guestling Hundred included Guestling itself and the unidentified manor of 'Rameslie', a large estate belonging to the abbey of Fécamp, which included Rye and Winchelsea, with some property in Hastings attached to it.¹ The manor of 'Ivet' also cannot be identified with certainty, although it may be identical with Pett; Fairlight is disguised as *unum ferlang*,² and Icklesham is not mentioned. In 1290 John Duke of Brittany complained that the men of 'Little Yhamme' (Iham in Winchelsea) refused to do suit at his hundred court of Guestling, but they claimed liberty from it on the ground of charters received from the king's progenitors.³ By 1296 the hundred comprised the four parishes which now compose it.⁴ The Sussex portion of Broomhill (now in Goldspur Hundred) seems to have been originally in this hundred, as in 1262 it was stated that the Abbot of Robertsbridge had withdrawn 'his manor of Promhull which used to do suit at the hundred'.⁵

The hundred formed part of the estates given to the Count of Eu after the Conquest, and follows the descent of the honour and rape of Hastings.⁶ The meeting place for the hundred court may have been at a spot near Fairlight church called 'Hundred Acre'.⁷ In 1400 the bounds of the coastline of the hundred were defined as from Nepplisbourne (probably the Ecclesbourne in Fairlight Glen) to Stonmersh (in Pett Level).⁸ Wrecks and treasure trove and other rights and profits belonged to the lord of the hundred and rape.⁹

In 1574 there was a controversy between the hundreds of Guestling and Gostrow concerning the watch kept at Fairlight Beacon, and it was agreed, by the friendly mediation of Master Shepherd, that Gostrow Hundred was to pay the sum of 10*d.* every third night when watch was kept, and be otherwise quit.¹⁰

¹ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 375, 391*b*.

² *Ibid.* 405.

³ *Cal. Pat.* 1281-92, p. 397.

⁴ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, 3.

⁵ *Assize R.* 912.

⁶ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 8 Edw. III (1st nos.), 70; *Feet of F. Suss. Mich.* 33/4 Eliz.; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccccxvii, 41; *Recov. R. Mich.* 9 Geo. IV, ro. 299.

⁷ Mawer and Stenton, *Place-Names of Sussex*, ii, 507.

⁸ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxvii, 173.

⁹ *Ibid.*; *Feet of F. Suss. Mich.* 33/4 Eliz.

¹⁰ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiii (4), p. 34.

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FAIRLIGHT

Farleg, Farleia, Fernlega (xiii cent.); Farleigh, Farnleghe (xiv cent.); Farlyghe (xvi and xvii cent.).

The parish of Fairlight has an area of 3,047 acres, of which 229 acres are foreshore and 3 water. The land rises to an elevation of over 500 ft., in a ridge running across the parish, falling away northwards, towards Fairlight Hall, to under 200 ft. on the northern boundary, and sloping southwards towards the sea and Fairlight Glen, the cliffs rising in most places to about 100 ft. above the shore. The village, with St. Andrew's Church, is situated at the highest point of the ridge, which there rises to 533 ft. At the eastern end the ridge slopes down to Stonelink Farm. Marsham Farm lies beyond it and Old Marsham in the extreme east of the parish. Lower and Little Stonelink are on a road which twists north and north-west towards Guestling. The main road runs out of Hastings and along the ridge, across the centre of the parish. The vicarage lies to the north of the road, behind the village, and there is a coastguard station due south. Fairlight Place, at the head of the Glen, is a stone-built house of about 1550 but much altered. The gabled west end is of the 16th century and has a projecting chimney-stack of hammer-dressed coursed ashlar with a moulded plinth and string-courses which are continued across the wall but stop short at the 18th-century front wall. The south front has 18th-century windows, and a middle porch. In the ceiling of the west room is an original moulded beam which has carved die-out stops, now exposed only at the north end. The beam is curiously twisted with age. The middle entrance hall has a like moulded ceiling-beam with differently carved stops. There is a 16th-century door in the back wall with long narrow panels and frieze panels. In the upper story the west room has a 16th-century stone fire-place. In the modern extension behind is a carved oak overmantel of the 17th century taken from a panelled room at 'Fishponds', a neighbouring farm-house on the estate, now a golf club-house, of which the back wing is probably of the 17th century.

Stonelink Farm is of early-17th-century origin, and Lower Stonelink is of the late 16th century, retaining its old timber-framing in the back wall. Both houses were altered in the 18th century but still have wide fire-places in their central stacks and open-timbered ceilings.

The parish is bounded on the south and south-east by the sea, and on the west by Hastings. The northern boundary touches the road from Hastings to Pett. A narrow extension of the parish crosses the Pett road and stretches north-east up to Pannel Sewer, with Frenchcourt Farm to the north of the road.

The soil of the parish is sandy loam and clay, with a subsoil of sandstone and clay. The chief crops are wheat, oats, barley, peas, beans, and pasturage.

The manor of FAIRLIGHT or FRENCHCOURT

[Frenshecourt, Frenkiscourt (xiv cent.)] before the Conquest formed part of the possessions of MANORS Earl Godwin, and was afterwards given to the Count of Eu. The overlordship follows the descent of the rape.

The sub-tenant in Saxon times was Ulmer, but the Count of Eu gave it to Robert de St. Leger,¹ in whose family it remained for two centuries. In 1166 Thomas de St. Leger held 4 knight's fees in Fairlight,² but shortly afterwards he made considerable gifts of land to the abbey of Robertsbridge, so that his grandson Geoffrey, son of John de St. Leger, was returned in 1210-12 as holding only 3½ fees.³ Geoffrey was dead before 1225, when his son (William) was under age but already married to a daughter of Simon de Echingham.⁴ William's lands for some reason were taken into the king's hands, but were returned to him in 1244.⁵ In 1254 he received a grant of free warren in his demesne lands of Fairlight,⁶ but he appears to have died without male issue. Possibly Alice, widow of Robert de Beauchamp, who made over the manor to her son James about 1270,⁷ was his daughter. James de Beauchamp was dead by 1285, when his widow, Alice, recovered one-third of the manor as dower against the Earl of Richmond,⁸ who was presumably acting as guardian of the heir, as in 1294 William de Stokes, the Earl's bailiff, was holding Fairlight as guardian of the heir of James de Audley (probably identical with the James de Beauchamp just mentioned);⁹ this heir was presumably James de Audley, who in 1300 was one of the chief lords of the marsh of Winchelsea.¹⁰ His son James, who was a minor at the time of his father's death, succeeded soon after.¹¹ In 1310 or 1311, however, he sold the manor to Edmund de Passeley for £200,¹² and the latter received a fresh grant of free warren there in 1317.¹³ In 1336 Margaret, widow of James de Audley, claimed dower in the manor of Frenshecourt in Fairlight against Edmund's widow, Margaret,¹⁴ who was holding the manor in 1339;¹⁵ after whose death it passed to their son Thomas de Passeley, who was holding it in 1342 and 1356.¹⁶ It then descended with the manor of Moat in Iden (q.v.)¹⁷ to Sir John de Passeley, who died seised of Frenchcourt or Fairlight in 1443; but during his lifetime these 3½ fees had been devastated by the sea.¹⁸ The manor having been granted to trustees, his son John did not enter into possession until ten years later.¹⁹ John de Passeley was the last of his family, and the manor was held in 1469 by Thomas Hoo.²⁰ It next appears in 1532 in the possession of John Cowper and Margaret his wife,²¹ in whose right



ST. LEGER. *Azure fretty argent a chief or.*

¹ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 405a.

² *Red Bk. Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), i, 202.

³ *Ibid.* ii, 554; *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), 68, 83.

⁴ *Curia Regis R.* 88, m. 28 d.

⁵ *Bk. of Fees*, ii, 692; *Cal. Close*, 1242-7, p. 168; *Cal. Chart. R.* 1226-57, p. 361.

⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1247-58, p. 336.

⁷ *Anct. Deeds* (P.R.O.), C. 1497.

⁸ *Add. MS.* 39373, fol. 86.

⁹ *Ibid.* fol. 122. For a possibly significant connexion between Audley and Beauchamp see Dugdale, *Baronage*, i, 747.

¹⁰ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* i, 1820.

¹¹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iv, 402; *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 405.

¹² *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xxiii), 1306.

¹³ *Cal. Chart. R.* iii, 333.

¹⁴ *Add. MS.* 39374, fol. 31.

¹⁵ *Coll. Top. et Gen.* vii, 119.

¹⁶ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, p. 232; *Ch. Inq.* p.m. 29 Edw. III (1st nos.), 25; *Fines*

(Suss. Rec. Soc. xxiii), 1589.

¹⁷ *Cal. Close*, 1396-9, p. 192.

¹⁸ *Feud. Aids*, v, 151; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 32 Hen. VI, no. 26.

¹⁹ *Early Chan. Proc. bdle.* 24, no. 6.

²⁰ *Rent. and Serv.* (P.R.O.), 658.

²¹ Possibly this is the John Cowper who married Margaret Lewknor [*Visit. of Suss.* (Harl. Soc.), 147], a member of a family connected with that of Hoo: see Wartling.

he evidently held it. In that year they conveyed it to John Sackville,¹ whose son Richard died seised of it in 1566.² Richard's son Thomas, afterwards Lord Buckhurst, left this manor, with Guestling and others, to his third son Thomas, who conveyed them to trustees in 1612;³ but Fairlight does not appear to have been sold with Guestling to Laurence Ashburnham. In 1626–7 it is said to have been in the possession of William Wenham of Pett,⁴ but before 1646 it had passed to Anne Brooke and her second husband Thomas Brian, and in that year was settled on Anne's son John Brooke, on his marriage with Frances Milles.⁵ In 1655 the widow Anne Brian, with her son John and his wife, conveyed Fairlight to John Hedger, who paid castle-guard rent in 1665–6,⁶ and in 1716 it was held by Edward Hedger.⁷ Jonathan Stevens, however, paid the castle-guard rent from 1717 to 1725 and held a court there in 1724.⁸ By 1731 the manor had been acquired by Sir William Ashburnham of Broomham, who held it until 1755, but Jonathan Stevens continued to pay castle-guard rent of 7s. 9d. for the demesnes until 1751.⁹ At the death of Sir William Ashburnham in 1755 his estates passed to his nephew William Ashburnham, Bishop of Chichester, and descended with Broomham (q.v.).¹⁰ It apparently became absorbed in that estate, as there is now no separate manor.

MARSHAM [Mersham (xiii to xviii cent.)] is found in the hands of Sir Giles de Fiennes, who in 1290 received a grant of free warren in his demesne lands there.¹¹ Like Oldcourt (q.v.) it passed to Nicholas de la Beche, to whom free warren was granted afresh in 1318,¹² but there is no further record of Marsham until early in the 16th century, when it had come into the possession of Sir Richard Guldeford, probably by purchase, since he had lately bought the manor of Foder (later called Foder-Mersham), adjoining Icklesham, from the abbey of Robertsbridge.¹³ From Sir Richard, who died in 1506, Marsham descended to his son Edward,¹⁴ whose son Richard dying without issue, his estates came to Sir Edward's daughter Jane, the wife of Sir John Dudley.¹⁵ Sir John and Jane surrendered the manors of Marsham and Foder-Marsham to the king in 1538,¹⁶ and they were sold in 1540 to John Thatcher,¹⁷ who died in 1574, holding Marsham of the queen in chief for $\frac{1}{20}$ of a fee.¹⁸ From that time Marsham and Foder-Marsham follow the descent of Pett Manor (q.v.), but the records fail at the end of the 18th century.¹⁹

The manor of **STONELINK** was held of the manor of Fairlight, with various payments to Guestling and Pett manors.²⁰ The first recorded owner is Nicholas Alard, whose son Stephen held half a fee of James de Dudley in Stonelink, Broomhill, and Covehurst, at the beginning of the 14th century.²¹ Stephen's son Robert

was holding Stonelink in 1339.²² John Alard, son of Robert, died about 1377, having put the manor into the hands of Simon Salerne for the use of his daughter Agnes and her heirs. Agnes married firstly John Orlaston, by whom she had two sons and two daughters, and secondly John St. Leger, and died in 1410.²³ Her two sons William and Richard Orlaston both died without issue, and the two daughters Joan, wife of William Scott, and Margaret, who was married to William Parker, became joint heirs.²⁴ Joan died childless, and in 1425 William and Margaret conveyed their half of the manor with the reversion of the other half, still held by William Scott, to John Tamworth.²⁵ Bartholomew Bolney held the manor as half a fee in 1469²⁶ and died in 1476,²⁷ having appointed Vincent Finch and William Assherst to administer the manor for his three sons. The eldest son John died without issue, and Edward the second son sued the executors on behalf of his brother Richard for delivery of the manor.²⁸ Stonelink in 1560 was in possession of John Bolney, who had inherited it from his uncle of the same name,²⁹ but in 1565–6 he conveyed it to Thomas Duke.³⁰ In 1606–7 Richard, Edward, William, and Matthew Duke sold the manor to Nicholas Crumpe,³¹ and it remained in that family until after 1675.³² Before 1707 it had come into the possession of William Bishop, who died in 1730, but it was held in 1749 by John, Sarah, and Mary Martin, and Edward Greenway and Mary his wife.³³ In 1760 it was sold or leased to William Payne by John Martin and Anne, and William Morris and Mary.³⁴ By 1774 it had again changed hands, being the subject of a deed in that year between George Snoad and Elizabeth and Walter Anger.³⁵ In 1803 it was conveyed by Edward Collins and Anne to William Shadwell,³⁶ after which record of it is wanting.

The ancient parish church of **ST. CHURCH ANDREW** was taken down and the present modern church erected on its site in the year 1845. It was a small building of stone, consisting of a chancel, nave, and square western tower. The chancel was probably of 13th-century date, as a drawing made in 1805 indicates three blocked lancet windows on the south side.³⁷ At the east end was a pointed window divided by a wooden mullion extending to the apex of the window. There were right-angled buttresses at the east corners of the chancel. A drawing of the north side indicates two very small windows high up in the wall. The nave was short and had at the east end north and south buttresses, each with two offsets. On the south side, east of the door, there was a two-light window, apparently with a wooden frame, and on the north side opposite to it was a larger window under a horizontal label terminating in stops. The church was entered by a south door

¹ Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 24 Hen. VIII.

² *Inqs.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xxxiii), 23.

³ Feet of F. Suss. East. 36 Eliz.; *ibid.* Mich. 10 Jas. I.

⁴ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 373.

⁵ Cal. Ashburnham Doc. (Lewes), i, no. 637; Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 22 Chas. I.

⁶ *Ibid.* Trin. 1655; Add. MS. 5679, fol. 373.

⁷ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 3 Geo. I.

⁸ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 373; *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix), 160.

⁹ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 373.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*; Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 465.

¹¹ Cal. Chart. R. ii, 345.

¹² *Ibid.* 1300–26, p. 392.

¹³ Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), 157 (12).

¹⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xxi, 18.

¹⁵ Hasted, *Kent*, iii, 82.

¹⁶ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xx), 299.

¹⁷ L. and P. Hen. VIII, xv, g. 942 (17).

¹⁸ *Inqs.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. iii), 86.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* xiv, no. 1019, Add. MS. 5680.

²⁰ Cal. Inq. Misc. ii, 405; Add. MS. 5680, fol. 123.

²¹ *Ibid.* The Sibyl Alard mentioned in 1296 was perhaps widow of Nicholas:

Subsidies (Suss. Rec. Soc. x), 3.

²² Coll. Top. et Gen. vii, 120.

²³ Chan. Inq. p.m. 11 Hen. IV, file 217, no. 10; Add. MS. 5680, fol. 123.

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xxiii), 2915.

²⁶ Rent. and Surv. (P.R.O.), 658.

²⁷ Suss. Arch. Coll. xxiii, 156.

²⁸ Early Chan. Proc. 36, nos. 43 and 44.

²⁹ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xx), 298.

³⁰ *Ibid.* 419.

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² *Ibid.*; Berry, *Suss. Gen.* 337; Feet of F. Suss. East. 27 Chas. II.

³³ Recov. R. East. 22 Geo. II, ro. 235; Coll. Top. et Gen. iii, 365.

³⁴ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xx), 419.

³⁵ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 15 Geo. III.

³⁶ *Ibid.* Mich. 43 Geo. III.

³⁷ In 1738 the church had 'small windows, and those shut up with bricks, no light but one window at the west [? east] end': Portland MSS. (Hist. MSS. Com.), vi, 68.

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under a plain timber porch; a north door seems to have been blocked up. The tower was comparatively small on plan and was probably of 13th-century date. It had a clasping buttress at the north-west corner, and a northward one at the junction of the tower with the nave. The tower rose somewhat above the roof of the nave and was divided into two stages by an offset. In the north wall were two lancet windows, one below and the other above the offset, but there were no window openings on the other sides, nor was there any external doorway. The tower had a low overall pyramidal roof covered with tiles and the nave and chancel had separate tiled roofs. This tower is referred to by Leland as 'Fareley where the high steeple is'.¹

The modern church was consecrated on 7 August 1846. A large part of the cost was borne by the principal landowners in the parish, the Countess Waldegrave contributing £1,000 and William D. Lucas Shadwell £500 and all the stone. It consists of chancel, nave, and north aisle, at the western end of which is a square tower. There is a south porch, and a vestry on the north of the chancel. The architect was T. Little.

The chancel is 20 ft. long by 17 ft. wide internally and has shallow clasping buttresses at the east corners. The east window, under a single arch externally, consists of three lancet lights, which are filled with stained glass, as are the two very small windows on the south. On the north side is a doorway with trefoiled head to the vestry. The chancel roof is in three bays with pine principals and boarded internally. The chancel arch springs from carved caps supported by a pair of circular shafts resting on large foliage corbels.

The nave is 62 ft. long by 24 ft. wide and is divided from the north aisle by an arcade of three bays, supported by two free octagonal piers and two responds of 14th-century design. The arches are of two orders and have hood-mouldings with carved head stops. The nave extends westward of this arcade, being flanked by the tower. The southern side of the nave is divided into four bays by three shallow external buttresses between others at the corners. In the second bay from the west is the doorway leading out of the porch and in each of the three other bays is a pair of lancet windows.² At the west end of the nave is a large three-light window, somewhat obscured by the organ which stands in front of it. It has geometric tracery and the hood-moulding terminates in figure stops said to represent Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.³ The roof of the nave is of pine with plastered panels.

The north aisle, 54 ft. long by 12 ft. wide, is lighted by three pairs of lancet windows and is entered from the tower by a plain pointed doorway.

The tower, of three stages, is 12 ft. square internally and has massive buttresses at its western angles, and at the north-eastern angle is a stair turret, the upper part of which is octagonal. The western doorway is an arch of three orders with two nookshafts, above which is a single-light window. In the second stage are four single-light windows, and in the third stage a double sound louvre on each face. The tower terminates with a corbel table and embattlement.

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to Nicholas Adye, M.A. (1701), and Stephen Frewen, A.M. (1726), two former vicars. There is one medieval bell.⁴

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The registers begin in 1651.

The church of Fairlight is mentioned in Domesday, and the advowson apparently belonged to the lords of the manor, but from 1294 to 1318 their right was unsuccessfully disputed by the abbey of St. Katherine of Rouen.⁶ James de Audley sold it with the manor to Edmund de Passeley,⁷ founder of the chapel of La Mote in Iden, who in 1320 obtained licence to alienate to the parson of that chapel the advowson and tithes of Fairlight church, in augmentation of the sustenance of six chaplains celebrating mass daily in the said chapel.⁸ The advowson of the vicarage remained with the master or warden of the chapel of La Mote until the dissolution of chantries in 1549, when it was valued at £6 9s. 1d., and was granted to Richard Venables and John Maynard.⁹ It subsequently changed hands many times. The rectory was held by Sir Richard Sackville, who died seised of it in 1566.¹⁰ In 1687 both rectory and advowson were apparently in the possession of Barnham Powell, and the advowson remained in his family until after 1743.¹¹ In 1788 it was conveyed by Philip Hawkins and Anne his wife to Henry Robinson,¹² but ten years later, and again in 1823, presentation was made by Richard Wadeson, who also held the rectory.¹³ In 1835 the patron was Brice Pearse,¹⁴ and in 1870 the Rev. Henry Stent.¹⁵ It is now in the gift of the Harrogate College Trust Ltd.

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The Almshouses were founded by deed poll, dated 1 July 1893, which recites that the Rev. William Batley had purchased part of Lime Kiln Field, otherwise the Cricketing Field, in Fairlight and had erected 2 almshouses thereon, and had conveyed the whole to trustees, to be occupied by deserving persons, inhabitants of Fairlight. He further endowed the almshouses with a sum of stock producing in dividends about £22. The two inmates receive 2s. 6d. each per week.

William Underwood Arnold's Charity, founded by will proved in London on 8 June 1910, is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 19 September 1916, which directs that three persons to be appointed by the parish council be the trustees, and that the yearly income be given every Good Friday to the most deserving poor of Fairlight to purchase boots

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GUESTLING CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-WEST: c. 1800
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A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

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GUESTLING: GREAT MAXFIELD

or clothing for their children. The endowment produces annually about £3 5s.

Catherine Anna Cockburn Batley, by a declaration of trust dated 17 April 1912, appointed the dividends from a sum of £200 to be paid by the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds to the trustees of the Batley Almshouse Charity for the upkeep of the building and to be called the 'Repair Fund'. The endowment produces about £7 10s. per annum.

Susan Connell, by her will dated 15 September 1913, gave £50 to the vicar, the income to go towards the parish work of the church. The endowment produces annually about £1 15s., one moiety being expended in coals for a poor family, the remainder being paid to the parish magazine fund.

William Caleb Jenner, by codicil to his will proved in London on 16 November 1915, directed his executors to pay an annuity of £5 during the term of twenty-five years from the date of his death [19 March 1915] to the vicar of Fairlight, for such purposes as he may think fit.

The Elliott Memorial Fund is comprised in a deed

poll dated 12 December 1925 which recites that Stephen Bumsted and two others having collected £390 for the purpose of perpetuating the memory of the Rev. E. W. Elliott, M.A., curate and vicar of Fairlight Church, 1885-1925, appointed the income therefrom to be used towards the maintenance of the churchyard. The churchwardens are the trustees. The endowment produces in dividends about £21 10s. A further sum of about £2 5s. is obtained from 'The Birkett Augmentation', comprised in a declaration of trust dated 11 February 1930, which recites that Egerton Stewart-Brown and seven others had given £39 10s., the income to be applied towards repair of churchyard, including graves, especially the Birkett Grave. Percy Edward Sankey, by his will proved in London on 10 March 1930, also gave £200, the income, now about £6 15s., to go towards the upkeep of the churchyard.

This parish participates in the Rev. Robert Bradshaw's charity (1734) which is described under Guestling, and in the East Hastings and Fairlight Blanket Club, particulars of which are given under the parish of Christ Church, Ore.

GUESTLING

Gestelinges (xi cent.); Gestlynge (xvi cent.).

The parish of Guestling has an area of 3,575 acres, of which 61 acres are water. The soil is loamy, with clay subsoil. In the extreme south the parish rises to 400 ft., but the ground slopes downward to the north, being 200 ft. in the centre, and falling to the level of the River Brede, which forms the northern boundary. A road runs north and south down the centre of the parish, with Broomham Park lying to the east of it. South of the Park a road runs east to the parish church, and turns south past the Rectory, towards Fairlight. Another road turns south-west at Copshall to the hamlet of Three Oaks, near the railway, with Little Maxfield to the north of it.

The Ashford and Hastings branch of the Southern Railway runs through the west and north of the parish, and there are three halts within it, Three Oaks and Guestling, Doleham, and Snailham.

Great Maxfield lies just to the west of the line, on Sailor's Stream, running into Doleham Ditch, which forms part of the north-west boundary of the parish. The house is of L-shaped plan, facing north-east with the shorter wing facing north-west. The great chimney-stack projecting from the middle of this wing dates probably from about the end of the 14th century. The chimney is 9 ft. 9 in. wide and of 7 ft. projection and is built of uncoursed rough ashlar with yellow freestone angle dressings. It has a chamfered plinth. The outer faces are gathered in with tabling to carry an attached pair of octagonal shafts of ashlar, set at right angles to the main wall and capped with an embattled cornice. This wing is built of close timber-framing and is of about a century later than the chimney-stack.¹ The gabled north-east end projects at both first and second floor levels on moulded bressummers. The ground floor has a square bay-window with moulded posts, sill, and head, but now fitted with a modern window-frame of four lights. The upper story also has a projecting oriel window with a moulded and coved sill and carved brackets. The barge-board of the gable has trefoiled round arches carved with foliage.

The south-east end of the wing has been lengthened about a yard in modern times and is weather-boarded. The north-eastern and larger room on the ground floor has a lofty ceiling with a moulded beam dividing it into two bays. The smaller back room has its ceiling at a lower level, and above the partition dividing the two rooms is a like beam. Both floors have plastered ceilings concealing stop-chamfered joists. The present roof of the wing is probably of the 17th century.

The remainder of the house is of late-16th-century date and is built of square-panelled timber-framing on a later stone underpinning, and the roof has almost certainly been reconstructed about a yard above the original eaves-level, the main posts of the framing being raised on the inserted stone basement.

The front entrance, next to the north-west wing, is modern, the original entrance being next to the central chimney-stack. In the upper story of the front are three original small windows, each of two lights. Two of these, one at each end of the front, now blocked, are portions of the type of opening often found in buildings of the period—a tall mullioned window flanked at the top by smaller lights as wings, as is shown by the stopped chamfers on the outer edges of the jambs or posts. The south-easternmost window also has the old upright wood bars in the lights. There is a similar blocked window, below this one, in the lower story. The gabled south-east wall is of modern brick and cement and at the back is a low parallel addition of 18th-century brick. Inside, there are wide fire-places, with oak bressummers and open-timbered ceilings.

There are traces of a former moat around the house.

Broomham, the seat of Sir Reginald Ashburnham, is said to date from 1580. It was largely altered in the 18th century and was remodelled and enlarged again in 1927. The walls of the main west front are modern, of brick, stone, and tile-hanging. Inside the porch is an ancient shield with six quarterings of the Ashburnham arms. The eastern part of the house is probably the most ancient and was of rectangular plan: the south extension of it, containing the servants' quarters, has

¹ The original hearth to the upper fire-place was some 2 ft. below the present floor level.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

a projecting chimney-stack of late-16th-century bricks in the lower part. The northern half has a central stack, of cross-plan above the roof, rebuilt with 16th-17th-century bricks. There is a great deal of heavy timbering in the ceilings, presumably all reset. The northwest room has a late-16th-century panelled high dado and a carved overmantel with two panels of scrolls, foliage and lions' masks, and terminal figures of bearded men. The dining-room east of the entrance hall was the old kitchen and has a fire-place 1 1/2 ft. wide. There is not much distinctive indication of age in the south-east quarters: a first-floor room has chamfered beams with carved stops. The north-east room has ancient ceiling-beams, and late-16th-century panelling and overmantel.

Stocks Farm, north of Broomham, is a timber-framed house of c. 1530 now faced with red and black bricks and tile-hanging. On the west is an original projecting chimney-stack of ashlar, carrying a tall modern brick shaft. The fire-place has moulded stone jambs and a four-centred arch of oak with spandrels carved with foliage. This western room has some old framing on all four walls and the ceiling has main cross-beams, 1 3/4 in. wide, which are moulded and have sunk soffits. The same moulding is repeated against the walls. The other part of the house may be of the 17th century, to which date the central chimney-stack belongs, or earlier, and has open-timbered ceilings, &c. The roof over the western part has been remodelled, but many of the re-used timbers are said to be smoke-blackened and are probably earlier than the Tudor work.

Pickham Farm, 1 mile east of Broomham, is probably of c. 1600. The upper story of the east front is of rectangular timber-framing with plastered infilling, but the lower story is of red brick. The roof is thatched. The central chimney-stack is of late-17th-century bricks above the roof but has, inside, earlier wide fire-places, and the rooms have open-timbered ceilings. North-east of the house is a timber-framed and thatched barn of the 17th century.

Little Maxfield, Lidham Hill Farm, and Copshall are houses of the 17th century, with characteristic chimney-stacks. Church Farm may be slightly earlier, but has been much renovated; and Pound Farm, named Saunders Farm on the Ordnance map, seems to have been originally a timber-framed house of c. 1600.

GUESTLING in the time of Edward **MANORS** the Conessor was held by Ulbald, of the king, and in 1086 by Geoffrey de Floce of the Count of Eu, one hide being held by Robert de Olecumbe.¹ The overlordship followed the descent of the rape, but in the 16th century and later it was held of the manor of Crowhurst.² It was held as half a fee by knight's service and castle-guard rent at Hastings Castle and was part of the nine fees held in the 13th century by Peter de Scotney.³

A Robert de Gestling is met with as early as 1130⁴

and Alice widow of Geoffrey de Gestling in 1219 claimed dower against John, son of Geoffrey by a previous wife, in Guestling and Iden and elsewhere.⁵ John died soon after this, his heir being apparently his half-brother Robert, the son of Geoffrey and Alice, who in 1223 was under age and in ward to Peter de Scotney.⁶ About twenty years later the manor seems to have been divided between the two daughters of John de 'Estling', Isabel who married another John de Gestling, and Agatha who married Henry de Ore.⁷ Henry in 1254 received, at the instance of Richard de Ore, lord of Ore and doubtless his near kinsman, a grant of free warren in his demesne lands of Guestling, and a fair there yearly on the eve, day, and morrow of St. Laurence (Aug. 9 to 11).⁸ Henry, however, became involved in the Baron's War of 1264, and in 1265 his lands were forfeited, an allowance being made to his wife.⁹ Guestling evidently passed to John de Ore, whose widow Amice in 1307 secured the reversion of the other half of the manor and advowson from Philip de Gestling,¹⁰ after which it descended in the same manner as Ore (q.v.).¹¹ Thomas Sackville, third son of Lord Buckhurst, sold it to Lawrence Ashburnham of Broomham in the same parish, in 1612-14.¹² From that time Guestling remained with Broomham (q.v.).¹³

A half fee held of Frenchcourt by John de Asshe in 1320¹⁴ is probably identical with the quarter fee held in 1342 by John Rede of Gensing.¹⁵ There is no further record of it, under this name, but as in 1469 the manor of Maxfield was held jointly by the Abbot of Battle and 'the heirs of James Assh'¹⁶ it was probably absorbed into that manor.

The manor of **MAXFIELD** [Mexfeld (xiii-xvi cent.)] was given in the 13th century to the abbey of Battle by Robert Foster and Robert, Ralph, and Adam Hay, sons of Robert and Levota Hay, the grant being confirmed by Geoffrey St. Leger.¹⁷ It belonged to the abbey until 1538, when all the lands of that monastery were yielded up to the king by John Hamond, the last abbot.¹⁸ Maxfield was then granted to Sir Anthony Browne, and descended with the manor of Battle (q.v.) but, probably at the sale of the Battle estates in 1719, came into the hands of Thomas Medley of Buxted, who died in 1728, and his heirs were holding the manor in 1748. Julia, heir of her uncle George Medley, married Sir George Shuckburgh and their daughter Julia carried Maxfield to her husband Charles, third Earl of Liverpool, whom she married in 1870. The manor was sold to Wastel Brisco in 1875, and the Brisco estates were dispersed in 1925, when the manorial rights appear to have lapsed.¹⁹

In 1201 half a hide of land in **SNAILHAM** was bought by Edmund de Hastings, one ninth from William de Cheleshunt, *alias* de Elding, and Avice his wife, the remainder from William de Becco, Luke son of William, Dering de Northwode and Juliana, and Hillary widow of Alan her sister.²⁰ Nothing further is

¹ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 405a.

² Chan. Inq. p.m. 13 Edw. III (2nd nos.), 57; *ibid.* 15 Edw. III (1st nos.), 43; *ibid.* (Ser. 2), lxvii, 137; Lower, *Sussex*, i, 202.

³ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, p. 102.

⁴ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* iii, 224.

⁵ *Suss. Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. ii), no. 167.

⁶ *Curia Regis R.* 85, m. 25.

⁷ *Suss. Fines*, no. 453; Add. MS. 39373, fol. 15.

⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1247-58, p. 345.

⁹ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* i, 917.

¹⁰ Add. MS. 39373, fol. 221; *Suss. Fines*, no. 1232.

¹¹ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 405 and 1858; Chan. Inq. p.m. 36 Edw. III, pt. 2, no. 10; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* x, 142; Add. MS. 5679, fol. 437; *Inq.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xiv), 523.

¹² Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 10 Jas. I; *ibid.* Hil. 10 Jas. I; *Recov. R. Hil.* 11 Jas. I, ro. 37.

¹³ *Recov. R. Trin.* 14 Geo. III, ro. 379; *ibid.* Hil. 18 Geo. III, ro. 251; *ibid.* East. 43 Geo. III, ro. 217.

¹⁴ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 405.

¹⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, p. 232.

¹⁶ *Rent. and Surv.* (P.R.O.), 658.

¹⁷ Thorpe, *Cat. of Battle Abbey Charters*, 17, 21. Foster had perhaps married Levota Hay. Maxfield may probably be identified with the hide held in 1086 by Robert de Olecumbe.

¹⁸ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix), 27.

¹⁹ Information from deeds in private hands.

²⁰ *Curia Regis R.* ii, 66; *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. ii), 57 and 58.

heard of it for 140 years, but a family of that name held land in the parish during this period. Henry de Sneyllham being mentioned in 1296, and John de Sneyllhamme in 1327 and 1332.¹ In 1339 Margaret, widow of Gervase Alard, was assessed for one armed footman, for her land at Snailham.² In 1430 Robert Alard held land here from Battle Abbey, for which he had to do suit at the abbot's court of Maxfield when thieves were tried or the king's writ was pleaded.³ He or his son Henry made over the manor to Robert Oxenbridge. The latter had a son Robert whose widow Alice (who apparently married secondly a Blount⁴ and later married Henry Lacy), had a life interest in Snailham, which was disputed by Robert's brother Sir Godard.⁵ Apparently he was unsuccessful, as after Alice's death the manor passed to her daughter Anne Oxenbridge, who was married first to Henry Stokes and secondly to Oliver Saint John, and it was settled on her and Oliver and the heirs of Anne in 1549.⁶

A manor of Snailham appears before 1543, in the possession of Andrew Lord Windsor, who conveyed it with other manors for 20 years to his younger sons Edmund and Thomas, but left it by will to the eldest son William.⁷ In 1560 it was conveyed to trustees to provide part of an annuity of £240 for Edward Lord Windsor and his mother Elizabeth, widow of William and since married to George Puttenham.⁸

The 'messuage called Snayllham' was held of the manor of Filsham, by Thomas Cheyne,⁹ who died in 1565.¹⁰ His son John died in 1603, when it was said to be held in chief.¹¹ From him it passed to his daughter Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Culpeper, and descended to their son Sir Cheyney Culpeper before 1635.¹²

In 1680 the manor was in the possession of Thomas Mun and Frances his wife, and it is said to have passed from him to the Offley family,¹³ but in 1754 it was held by George Carr, clerk, and Anne.¹⁴ In 1775 it was conveyed by Samuel Shore and Urith, and Francis Edmunds and Hannah Maria to Jeremiah Curteis,¹⁵ who is said to have resold it in the same year to William Cooper.¹⁶ The latter devised it to his son Benjamin in 1783, who sold it to his brother Thomas in 1791.¹⁷ It appears to have been conveyed in 1810 by Thomas and Charlotte Proctor to Benjamin Cooper Langford, and in 1835 was held by Thomas Cooper Langford.¹⁸

A manor of *HOSELAND*, lying apparently to the south of Maxfield on the borders of Icklesham and Ore,¹⁹ was in 1546 in the hands of John Bachelier.²⁰ About that time he was sued by Robert Leukenor, son of Humphrey, who claimed that the manor had descended to his father as nephew and heir of Richard Leukenor. John denied this and said that his father

Robert Bachelier was seised of it.²¹ Eventually, in 1550 Robert Leukenor granted the manor to George Bachelier,²² who probably left two coheirs, as in 1565 Thomas Rootes and Joan his wife were dealing with one moiety and Bartholomew Garraway and Margaret with another, and in 1608 Powle Garraway and James and Thomas Rootes conveyed the whole manor to Thomas Ayloffe.²³ This was evidently for a settlement, as James and Henry Rootes held the manor in 1656 and in 1659, when they conveyed it to Nicholas Delves,²⁴ after which it is lost sight of.

The reputed manor of *THREE OAKS* appears in the possession of James Rootes (whose wife Ann was one of the coheirs of James Thatcher of Pett) in 1640, when he conveyed it to Laurence Brighthis.²⁵ It is next mentioned in 1713, when it was held by John Russell and Elizabeth together with George Copper and Mary his wife.²⁶ In 1750 Saint John Russell was holding it with Jeremiah French and Winifred,²⁷ but in 1755 he was the sole owner,²⁸ and in 1810 it was assigned to his daughter Elizabeth, wife of Charles Smith Mortimer of Eastbourne, after which there is no further record of it.

BROOMHAM [Bromeham (xvi cent.)] is alleged to have been held in the middle of the 15th century by Sir John de Stoneling or Stonelink, and to have passed by the marriage of his daughter and heir to Richard, second son of Thomas Ashburnham of Ashburnham.²⁹ Richard's grandson Thomas was holding it in 1545 and 1550,³⁰ and his son Laurence died seised of it in 1565, when it was held of Anthony, Viscount Montagu, as of his manor of Brede.³¹ From Laurence's son Adam it passed in 1597 to another Laurence,³² whose son Denny Ashburnham was created a baronet in 1661 and died in 1697. Sir Denny's son William died childless in 1755, leaving Broomham to his nephew William Bishop of Chichester, who succeeded to the baronetcy on the death of his father Charles Ashburnham in 1762. Bishop William was succeeded by his son William in 1797, and grandson of the same name in 1823, and the estate passed from him in 1843 to his brother John, who was rector of Guestling and died in 1854. His son Sir Anchitil was succeeded in 1899 by Sir Anchitil Piers Ashburnham-Clement,³³ who died in 1935, and the property is now in the hands of his trustees. Broomham does not seem ever to have been a manor.



ASHBURNHAM. Gules a fesse between six molets argent.

¹ *Subsidies* (Suss. Rec. Soc. x), 3, 213, 324. The manor apparently covered both Lower Snailham in Guestling and Upper Snailham in Icklesham.

² *Coll. Top. et Gen.* vii, 120.

³ Aug. Off. Misc. Bks. 56, fol. 211v. The abbey land in Snailham was included in the grant to Sir Anthony Browne in 1539: *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (2), g. 619 (3).

⁴ She is called 'Alice Blount, widow', in the Chancery suit.

⁵ E. Chan. Proc. 284, nos. 78-80; *ibid.* 424, nos. 35-8.

⁶ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xx), 403.

⁷ Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), 145 (5). Andrew's wife was Elizabeth Blount, sister of Anne wife of Sir Thomas Oxenbridge, elder brother of the second Robert.

⁸ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xx), 451.

⁹ He seems to have been grandson of Margaret Oxenbridge: *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxxv, 49.

¹⁰ *Ings.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. iii), 55.

¹¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cclxxxi, 72.

¹² *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xx), 403; *Harl. Soc.* liii, 184.

¹³ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xx), 403; Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 473.

¹⁴ Feet of F., Suss. Mich. 28 Geo. III.

¹⁵ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xx), 403; Horsfield states that Urith was the last of the Offleys.

¹⁶ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 473.

¹⁷ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 371.

¹⁸ Recov. R. Hil. 50 Geo. III; Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 473.

¹⁹ Aug. Off. Misc. Bks. 56, fols. 41, 212.

²⁰ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 229.

²¹ Early Chan. Proc. 1140, no. 29.

²² *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 229.

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ Feet of F. Suss. East. 16 Chas. I.

²⁶ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xx), 438.

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ Recov. R. East. 28 Geo. II, ro. 292.

²⁹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxiv, 4; Lower, *Sussex*, i, 202.

³⁰ Feet of F. Suss. East. 36 Hen. VIII; *ibid.* Hil. 4 Edw. VI.

³¹ *Ings.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. iii), 44.

³² *Ibid.* xxxiii, no. 192.

³³ G.E.C. *Baronetage*, iii, 195-6.

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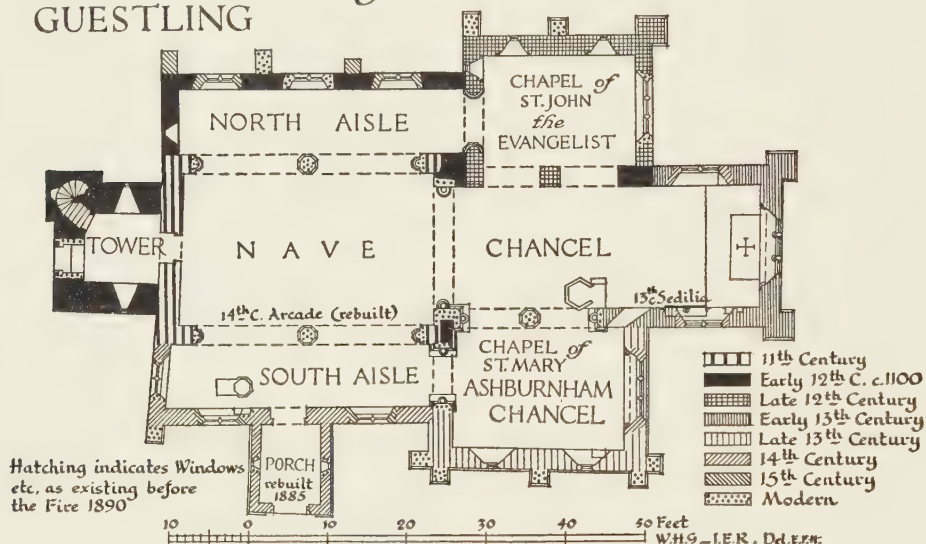
The Church of *ST. LAURENCE* now consists of a nave of two bays, with north and south aisles, a chancel with north and south lateral chapels, a western tower and a south porch. The walls are mainly composed of local sandstone and ironstone, with modern Bath stone dressings and some Caen stone. The church was restored in 1886, but was severely damaged by fire in 1890, after which most of the interior stonework was renewed together with the roofs, which are covered with tiles.

The 11th-century church consisted of an aisleless nave, shown by the existing quoins in the west wall to have been of the same width as the present nave, and a chancel, with perhaps a timber western tower. About 1100 the present tower was built, partly for defence,

which has been renewed. The roof of the chancel is of semicircular form divided into compartments and oak-boarded internally.

The chapel of St. John the Evangelist opens out of the chancel by a pair of semicircular arches, between which is a square pier. They have hood-mouldings on both sides and the inner member of each arch is supported by corbels with leaf carving. This chapel has a separate modern span roof and a modern three-light east window, a pair of lancet windows in the north wall and a small lancet in the western wall. All of these have pear-shaped edge mouldings on their inner splay. There is a quarter-engaged buttress at the north-west corner and two other modern buttresses. It is approached from the north aisle by a very interesting

PARISH CHURCH of ST. LAWRENCE GUESTLING



having no external entrance, and a narrow north aisle was added. To the late 12th century belongs the chapel of St. John, at the east end of this aisle, and early in the next century the chancel was rebuilt. The Lady Chapel and south aisle were added about 1300 and in the 15th century the roof of the north aisle was raised and new windows were inserted in both aisles.

The chancel, which projects about 16 ft. 6 in. eastward of the lateral chapels and dates from the early 13th century, has contemporary clasping buttresses at the eastern corners, with low plinths on the two outer sides. The east window contains three tall lancet lights, the centre being higher than the other two. These are contained in a large rear arch springing from a pair of corbels with foliated caps, supported by engaged shafts. With the exception of these corbels, the whole is modern work executed in Bath stone. On the north and south sides of the chancel is a pair of two-light windows of mid-14th-century date; they have no rear arches, but there is a carved head at the apex of each internal opening.

Under the southern of these windows is a piscina and a small recess of 12th-century character, which may have been rebuilt here when the chancel was lengthened. Westward of these is a pair of sedilia of early-13th-century type separated by a shaft with moulded cap

transitional arch supported by semicircular responds with water-holding bases, the caps being carved with leaf ornament. The semicircular arch is ornamented on the west side with chevron-moulding deeply undercut.¹ It much resembles the work at St. Mary's Church, Eastbourne. This chapel was an appendage of Stock Farm in the northern part of the parish and if that be the same as 'Hamestokke' which belonged to John of Gestling in 1219² it is probable that he was responsible for its erection. It is referred to in the will of Robert Oxenbridge in 1504,³ who left 5 marks for its support, and also in the will of Denys Ive in 1509.⁴

On the south of the chancel is the Lady Chapel, which belongs to Broomham. It opens to the chancel by two pointed arches springing from semi-octagonal responds and a free octagonal pier. This chapel was partially rebuilt after the fire, before which it had no buttresses. It is lighted by a large three-light east window with heavy and elaborate flowing tracery, and two lancets on the south with deep splay, all filled with stained glass. A string-course runs round the east and south sides under the windows. In the south wall is a piscina and in the north wall a squint looking into the chancel. This chapel is approached from the south aisle by a modern pointed arch springing from semicircular responds.

¹ This arch is figured in the article on ii, 370.
Ecclesiastical Architecture in *V.C.H. Suss.*

² *Suss. Rec. Soc.* ii, no. 167.

³ P.C.C. 5 Holgrave.

⁴ P.C.C. 18 Bennett.

The nave is now of two bays, although formerly it had three arches on the north side.¹ The modern chancel arch is of two orders, the whole width of the chancel, replacing a simple pointed arch with plain soffits, described in the *Ecclesiologist*. The nave is now connected with the north aisle by two modern pointed arches of two orders springing from two semi-circular responds and an octagonal free pier.

The north aisle is lighted by three two-light windows, one of which was inserted in 1886 in place of the north door and the other two are of 15th-century date. It has two modern buttresses, and the large sandstone blocks of the upper part, as distinguished from the rough walling below, show that the north wall was raised in the 15th century, and the line of the previous roof can be seen at the west end. The aisle is covered by a lean-to roof.

The south aisle is connected with the nave by two arches similar to those on the north and has two windows similar to those in the north aisle—one on each side of the door, which is of 14th-century date with an external roll hood-moulding with curled stops. There is a modern two-light west window. The south porch was rebuilt after the fire on the old foundations.

The west tower is an addition to the western wall of the nave, to which it is not set at right angles. Originally it had no external doorway, the present one being a modern imitation of a Norman doorway. The tower is approached from the nave by a plain doorway and the ground story is lighted by three Norman windows, deeply splayed. At the north-west angle is an integral stair turret containing a newel stairway, reached from the ground floor, and giving access to the two upper stages—the first of which is lighted by three similar Norman windows and the upper contains one bell and has a double louvre opening, with baluster shaft set on the outside face, on the north, west, and south. In the upper stories there may be seen in the west wall of the nave the matrices of timber-framing, perhaps part of an earlier timber tower.

The font is modern and is a memorial to the Rev. Edwin N. Bloomfield (rector 1862–1914).

On the north wall of the chancel is a monument to John Cheyney (ob. 1603) and Elizabeth (Palmer) his wife. Their effigies, kneeling, face one another at a prayer desk. The monument to Adam Ashburnham (1597) formerly in the Broomham chapel is not now in the church.

There are some pieces of 16th-century glass in the centre window of the north aisle bearing the arms of Ashburnham impaled with Dudley.²

Formerly there was a gothic Flanders chest in this church, but it was destroyed in the 19th century.³ In this chest was kept a folio edition of Foxe's *Acts and Monuments*, which has been replaced in the church. It represents a legacy of Thomas Staffer, rector, in 1572.

The 15th-century bell, inscribed 'Sancta Katerina Ora pro nobis',⁴ was recast after the fire.

The church plate consists of a communion cup of silver with a paten cover, 1685, and a silver flagon, 1719.⁵ The lych gate is a memorial to Sir Anchtel Ashburnham (1898).

The registers begin in 1686.

The church of Guestling and its tithes were given

by Geoffrey de Floccer to the canons of St. Mary at Hastings, as part of the endowment of the prebend of Hughde Floccer, brother of the donor.⁶

ADVOWSON The gift was confirmed by the Counts of Eu then and in the 12th century,⁷ but later the advowson was evidently recovered by the lords of the manor of Guestling, and in 1308 appears in the possession of Amice, widow of John de Ore.⁸ It subsequently descended with the manor until 1850.⁹ In that year the Rev. Sir John Ashburnham conveyed the advowson to John Mayo Lukin, who sold it in 1857 to Clare College, Cambridge,¹⁰ the present patrons.

The maintenance of an Obit for the soul of William Barnes, in the church of Guestling, had two years still to run at the time of the Dissolution of Chantries, and the yearly rent of 6s. 8d. was granted by the king to William Fountayne and Richard Mayne.¹¹

Elizabeth Cheyney, by indenture **CHARITIES** dated 2 September 1611, gave to trustees half an acre called Parish Land at Icklesham, and 1½ acres of land known as 'Allards' at Guestling, with the buildings thereon, for the housing of two poor aged men or women, unmarried, inhabitants of Icklesham and two of Guestling, respectively.

Six acres of land at Corkfields in Fairlight, given at the same time, have been sold and the proceeds invested, producing in dividends about £13 15s., which is applied in the upkeep of the almshouses and in small grants to the inmates.

William Fletcher, who died in November 1712, gave by his will a perpetual annuity of 30s. charged on lands at Coghurst, to be distributed by the minister of Guestling amongst the poor at his discretion.

The Rev. Robert Bradshaw, by his will dated 20 November 1734, directed his executors to lay out £50 for a perpetual augmentation of the poor persons living in the almshouses at Guestling. The endowment produces about £1 10s. per annum. The same donor by his will also gave £20 per annum to be paid out of his estate to some able practitioner in physic and surgery to administer for all families of poor labouring men within the parishes of Guestling, Fairlight, and Pett. He further directed that after the death of his wife his executors should sell his estates and lay out £600 in the purchase of freehold land to be conveyed for a perpetual payment of an able medical practitioner. By a decree of Court of 18 December 1770 the estates were sold and the £600 was paid into a bank and invested in the name of the Accountant-General in £667 3 per cent. Bank Annuities which was increased by Order of the Master of the Rolls of 23 February 1773 to £1,000 like stock. The trustees are appointed from time to time by an order of the Board of Charity Commissioners. The endowment now produces £25 per annum, which is paid to a doctor who attends the poor.

Kaye's Coal Endowment, founded by Robert Kaye by indenture dated 11 June 1870, is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners of 23 July 1915. The charity is administered by the rector *ex officio* and two other trustees appointed by the parish council. The income of about £15 is expended in coal.

William Underwood Arnold's Charity, founded by will proved in London on 8 June 1910, is regulated by

¹ *Ecclesiologist*, vi, 182.

² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxviii, 228.

³ Figured in Parker's *Glossary of Arch.* ii, pl. 31.

⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 210.

⁵ *Ibid.* lv, 210.

⁶ *Cat. Anc. Deeds*, D. 1073.

⁷ Feet of F. *Suss. Trin.* 1 Edw. II.

⁸ *Ibid.* Hil. 8 Rich. II; *ibid.* East. 36

⁹ *Ibid.* xiii, 136.

Eliz.; *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

¹⁰ Add. MS. 39469, fol. 130.

¹¹ *Suss. Chantry Records* (*Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxvi), 97; *Cal. Pat. Edw. VI*, ii, 383.

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a scheme of the Charity Commissioners of 6 October 1916. The charity is administered by three trustees appointed by the parish council. The income, of about £3 5s., is distributed on Good Friday in boots and clothing to children.

William Caleb Jenner, by codicil to his will proved in London on 16 November 1915, directed his executors to pay an annuity of £5 for twenty-five years from the date of his death [19 March 1915] to the vicar of Guestling for such purposes as he may think fit.

ICKLESHAM

Icklesham (xiii cent.); Iklysham (xiv cent.).

The parish of Icklesham has an area of 5,605 acres, of which 42 acres are water, 26 acres tidal, and 353 acres foreshore. The elevation of the parish is for the most part little above sea-level, but rises to almost 200 ft. at one point to the west of the village. The village is situated on this high ground, at a crossing of the road from Hastings to Winchelsea, with the church at the eastern end. The parish is bounded on the north by the River Brede and the Padiam Sewer, and on the north-east by the River Rother and the town of Rye. The southern boundary is formed by the Pannel Sewer and the Dimsdale Sewer. The town of Winchelsea lies within the parish and almost divides it in two; the eastern portion, between Winchelsea and Rye, consists of flat lands practically at sea-level, crossed by the River Brede and the Royal Military Road, and with the ruins of Camber Castle in the centre. The sea-coast bounds the parish on the south-east. The soil of the parish is generally loam, with a subsoil of clay or sandrock. Most of the land is pasture. Under the Divided Parishes Act of 1882, 129 houses were transferred from Winchelsea.

A branch road south of the village runs east, past brick-works and the hamlet of Hog Hill, to Wickham Farm, near the remains of Winchelsea New Gate.

Wickham Farm is a stone-built house of two stories, cellars, and attics dating from the first half of the 16th century¹ or perhaps a little earlier. A cross-wing was added a little later in the 16th century at the north end, making the plan T-shaped. The masonry of both main block and north wing is of rubble. The plinth of the main block appears inside the north wing, showing that the wing is the later. The doorway in the middle of the east front is now mostly modern, but the original chamfered plinth is returned down on either side of it. Near the south end is a projecting chimney-stack of stone, now carrying a 17th-century brick shaft. In the south wall near the west angle is a moulded four-centred doorway with a hood-mould, probably of the 15th century and perhaps reset in its present position. The roof of the main block is tiled and is hipped at the south end, where it was probably gabled originally. The central chimney-stack is of 17th-century thin bricks with a modern top. The north wing is gabled at the east and west ends with tile verges but retaining the kneelers of the former parapets. In the south return wall of the west end is a chamfered doorway with a four-centred arch in a square head. Some of the original moulded windows, mostly of two lights, remain in all the walls.

The main block contains three principal rooms. The southernmost, the dining-room, has, in the projecting chimney-stack of the east front, a stone fire-place with moulded jambs and straight-sided Tudor arch in a square head. The middle room, the library, has a wide fire-place which retains a fine oak moulded bressummer

originally arched below. The rooms have open-timbered ceilings. The main walls are about 2 ft. 9 in. thick, but the west wall of the passage opposite the library is recessed and the wall thinned to about a foot in thickness for no reason that is apparent; as it retains the plinth outside, the thin wall was evidently external.

In the north wing the middle room, the kitchen, has a great fire-place 10 ft. wide with a cambered oak bressummer. The west room of the wing has a modern fire-place made up partly of some loose stones found on the site: these include a half of a Tudor arch which has a carved spandrel with parts of the numerals 15, probably part of a date.²

The lofty roof space over the main block shows trusses of plain collar-beam construction later than the walls, but the purlins have wind-braces.

Elms Farm, about half a mile south-east of the church, was probably a late-16th-century timber-framed house, but most of the south-east front was under-built with stone rubble in the early 18th century; its upper story is tile-hung, and little of the framing is exposed. The central chimney-stack has three detached shafts built of thin bricks. The front entrance-lobby is on one side of the central stack and the staircase on the other. The stairs are steep and half-way up is a heavy hinged trap-door which, when closed down, can prevent all access to the upper story.³ The upper handrail has shaped slats as balusters. There are open-timbered ceilings and wide fire-places.

Scragoak, near the south-west edge of the parish, retains some remains of a roof-truss and other construction of the 15th century. The truss on the west side of the middle upper room has a cambered tie-beam, with curved braces below it (one exposed) which formed an arch, and was originally open to the ground floor, the first floor with the central chimney-stack being late-16th-century insertions. The framing on the east side of the same bay also shows a highly cambered tie-beam, and struts which curve outwards. There is original timber-framing in the back wall, but the front is now of modern brick and tile hanging.

Upper Snailham and Toke's Farm are houses of about 1600, and Parsonage Farm of the 17th century, all considerably altered externally but retaining wide fire-places and open-timbered ceilings. Castle Farm, south of Camber Castle, now a golf club-house, may also be of the 17th century. There is an 18th-century windmill on Hog Hill, near Elms Farm, of framing covered with blackened weather-boarding and retaining its sails. And near New Place, an 18th-century house, is a fine timber-framed barn of the 16th century with a thatched roof.

The estuary running past Old Winchelsea towards Rye, with a creek running eastwards along the Wainway Wall, was known from early times as the Camber.

¹ All the details are of that period, except a doorway in the south end wall; this appears to be of the 15th century.

² There are a number of loose moulded

or worked stones now collected in the middle cellar; and in a garden wall is reset as a doorway a window of the late 17th

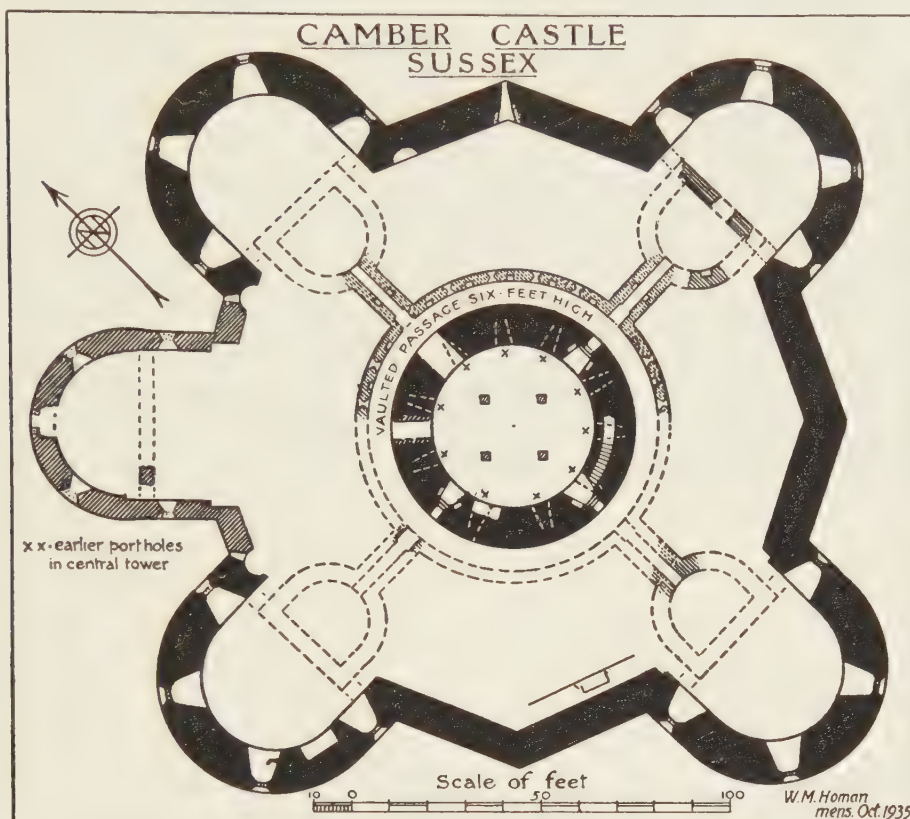
century with a three-centred arch.

³ A smuggler's device is suggested by the owner.

When Sir Richard Guldeford, in September 1486, was granted the lordship or manor of Iham, or Higham, and the land there recovered by the retirement of the sea, the tenure was to be *CAMBER* by service of maintaining a tower, to be built within the next two years, in his marsh near the port of Camber for defence against the king's rebels and enemies.¹ There is no evidence whether he did so, but between 1511 and 1514 his son Sir Edward Guldeford received from the Treasury over £1,000 towards making 'a new bridge and tower' for the defence of the Camber.² This was probably

in 1550 there were 17 gunners.⁸ In 1584 over £170 was spent on the castle,⁹ but by 1626 the castle was useless, being out of range of the harbour through the retirement of the sea and the shifting of the mouth of the Rother.¹⁰ The guns, however, were left in the derelict fort until August 1642, when orders were given for their removal to Rye and the castle was dismantled.¹¹ After this it served to some extent as a quarry for building stone, but is now protected from wilful damage.

The plan of the castle is an octagon with a stilted semicircular bastion or lunette at each alternate angle towards the cardinal points, and another at the north-



the central tower incorporated in the later castle designed in 1538 as one of a series of five polygonal block-houses for the defence of the south-east coast. The others were at Sandown, Deal, Walmer, and Sandgate;³ that at Deal being the largest, covering 0.85 of an acre, and Camber the second, with 0.73 acre. In 1539 Mr. Molton was appointed master mason and Russell master carpenter here,⁴ and by April of the next year 1,272 workmen were engaged on the work, including sawyers in Knell Wood and labourers in the Hastings and Fairlight quarries.⁵ Large sums continued to pass through the hands of William Oxenbrige, as paymaster, until the summer of 1543, the last £2,000 being for the 'water-works' or moat, of which slight traces remain.⁶ The appointment, in July 1544, of Philip Chowte as captain of Camber Castle, with 8 soldiers and 6 gunners, presumably marks its completion.⁷

The armament seems soon to have been increased, as

west angle containing the entrance, all surrounding a central circular tower, which seems clearly to be of earlier date than the enceinte and to have been originally lower. Around the tower was a vaulted passage which communicated with four similarly vaulted radiating passages: these led to erections of a stirrup-shaped plan with semicircular walls towards the interior and flat faces across the mouths of the bastions.

The central tower is about 65 ft. in diameter externally and has walls 11 ft. thick. It is built of ashlar and has a moulded string-course at about half height, which was probably the string-course of the parapet of the tower at its original height. It is ornamented with carvings, some of which are beast-heads, with spouts for the former roof or gutter; others include: a shield with a cross (twice), a fleur-de-lis, Tudor roses, and a shield with vertical markings. The external masonry below the string-course is of carefully squared ashlar in

¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1485-94, p. 151.

² *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, i (2), 2825. In 1528 Sir Edward petitioned for six pieces of good artillery for 'the blockhouse at the Kavill': *ibid.* iv (2), 5031.

³ See article by W. L. Ruttar in *Arch. Cant.* xxiii.

⁴ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (1), 398.

⁵ *Ibid.* xv, 598 (ii).

⁶ *Ibid.* xviii (1), p. 263, (2), pp. 128-30.

⁷ *Ibid.* xix (1), 1035 (142).

⁸ Cooper, *Winchelsea*, 177.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ *Ibid.* 179.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

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medium to large courses. Above it the masonry is of much smaller courses except immediately above the string-course, where many large stones may be relics of the original crenellations.

In the lowest part of the tower there were ten round-headed port-holes, with arches of brick, subsequently walled up with ashlar. In the north and south sides were inserted later four-centred doorways into the vaulted passage, destroying earlier port-holes. Higher up, towards the four cardinal points, are other openings. The northern is a doorway and has ashlar reveals and a Tudor arch of brick. The other three are port-holes (or windows?); in their splayed reveals are arched recesses or seats; the external jambs were chamfered and had arched heads with moulded labels. Towards the north-west is another brick arch, probably a much later doorway. And towards the south-west was a fire-place, for which one of the original round arches was destroyed.

The internal facing of the wall is of ashlar. Just above the windows or port-holes is a corbel-course of stone, about 20 ft. above the floor. Above this the wall is faced inside with brick and sets back about a foot. About 5 ft. higher is a large and deep chase for the beams of the heavy floor of the upper story. In the (former) upper story are four port-holes set nearly midway between the cardinal points: these have brick splays and arches inside; the outer openings have deeply splayed jambs and Tudor arches of stone, above which are relieving arches. A stair in the thickness of the wall from the east reveal of the lower southern port-hole probably led to the original parapet but now lands at a brick-lined recess at the level of the upper port-holes, where there is a loop-light, as well as one lower down the stair. On the south side is another recess and stairway which led up to the later parapet and was lighted by a loop. On the north side were two fire-places with chamfered stone jambs and Tudor arches. Nothing remains of the later parapet. In the floor at the bottom are equidistant chamfered base-stones for former posts: three are visible and a fourth is probably below the heap of fallen masonry and earth to the north. They were probably additional supports for the floor or roof above.

The four great bastions are of stilted half-round plan with walls some 11 ft. thick, but of brick inside and ashlar outside, with plinths. Each was provided with four port-holes, having wide internal recesses with segmental arches of two brick rings, splayed reveals and rounded backs: they have the appearance of great fire-places with fire-scorched masonry at the backs and each has a large flue rising above it. Externally they have splayed jambs and round arches of two rings of stone voussoirs. All have been walled up. The western bastion has also, between the south and south-western port-holes, a real fire-place with a double flue.

To the north-west is a fifth stilted half-round bastion with thinner walls lined with brick: it must have been a later addition replacing the earlier entrance. It had a doorway in the middle, now only a repaired gap. On either side of it were windows and there were two others in the straight part of the walls, now blocked. This gate-house had an upper story, lighted by three windows. Between the middle and western window was a fire-place; there was another east of the northern window; both have lost their chimney-breasts. Just within the arc was a cross-wall, or chord, of which only a fragment remains exposed, containing a flue, smoke-blackened,

apparently from a fire-place serving a chamber in the semicircular end. This flue meets another in the main wall south-west of it. Whether the stilted inner part of this bastion was floored or roofed over is uncertain: there are no other traces of a cross-wall, but the angles at the mouth of the bastion have rebates, some 2 ft. deep by 7 ft. wide, for some reason that is not now obvious.

The ashlar curtain-wall connecting the bastions forms the other angles of the octagon and had look-out windows in the angles. The south-south-west stretch has remains of some brick reinforcement inside in the lower part, probably to serve a kitchen, as in it there are the broken remains of a fire-place and oven.

The short lengths of curtain-wall flanking the gate-house are thinner than the others—some 6 or 7 ft.—and may be part of the later reconstruction of the entrance. In each is the half-round hollow of the drum of a former winding staircase; each with a loop-light.

The vaulted passage surrounding the central tower is the most curious feature of the fort, with its four radiating arms. It is entered by north and south doorways from the tower. The vaulting is in brick and, though now underground, was not so originally, as each quadrant of the outer wall is furnished with four loop-lights: between the loops are rectangular niches in the walling inside. The segmental vault is intact on the north-east half but the remainder has fallen in.

Doorways with Tudor arches open into similar vaulted passages, having niches inside, radiating to the stirrup-shaped erections built across the mouths of the bastions. These are mostly destroyed above the present heaped-up ground surface, but on the east side the walls stand about 10 ft. high, and are of stone with brick linings. The straight-faced outer wall seems to have had a middle archway and was apparently carried right across to the sides of the east bastion with archways that met the main wall above the westernmost of the port-holes on either side. A scrap of the south part of the inner semicircular wall also is left standing: it had a four-centred south archway and, next west of the archway, a recess. The arches suggest that the lower part of the structure was more or less arcaded, merely as a kind of open support for an upper platform. The northern structure is nearly all buried, but a part of the outer straight wall shows the four-centred heads of two archways. Whether these structures were intended for heavy gun emplacements within the bastions or were put in to help to support roofs is not evident. It is probable that the bastions had roofs, necessitating the great flues from the port-hole recesses to carry off the smoke. Large square holes are seen in the inner faces of the outer walls, to house the large beams and, as the space to be covered would be some 30 ft. deep by 40 ft. wide, cross-walls would be necessary. A clearance of the ground inside might settle this point.

The exteriors of the bastions and curtain-wall, especially in the north and west sides, have suffered badly from loss of the ashlar facing-stones. On the east and south sides a greater surface of the ashlar facing remains, probably because these sides were heaped up once with earth covering the port-holes.

ICKLESHAM is not mentioned in *MANORS* Domesday Book, but the 'Fee of Icklesham' appears about the middle of the 12th century in the possession of a family of the same name. The overlordship descended with the rape.¹ Icklesham was one of the 5½ fees held by Thomas de Hastings of

¹ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 405 and 1858; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccxlix, 173.



CAMBER CASTLE: THE CENTRAL TOWER



CAMBER CASTLE, FROM THE NORTH-WEST



ICKLESHAM CHURCH: INTERIOR, LOOKING EAST

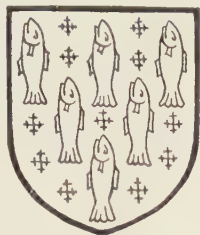


ICKLESHAM CHURCH, FROM THE NORTH-WEST

John Duke of Brittany, but it is said to have been held formerly by William Willicheres,¹ and was therefore presumably one of the 7 fees held by Humfrey de Willicheres of the Count of Eu in 1166.² After the death of William son of Thomas de Hastings, c. 1350, the fees of Hastings apparently passed to Henry Finch, and descended in that family,³ the mesne lordship disappearing when Henry's grandson Vincent took the manor of Icklesham into his own hands.

Ralph de Icklesham,⁴ who was living in 1195,⁵ was the son of Robert de Icklesham, who gave 60 acres here to the Abbey of Robertsbridge, and who had evidently held the fee before him. Sybil, daughter and heir of Ralph, married Nicholas Harengod⁶ before 1211 and was still living, a widow, in 1247.⁷ She was, however, succeeded by Ralph Harengod, her son, before 1248,⁸ and he received a grant of free warren in his demesne lands of Icklesham in 1252.⁹ Sir William Harengod, his successor, was in possession in 1275, and died about 1292, being smitten with an incurable disease which for the last few years of his life partly deprived him of the use of his limbs.¹⁰ From his son Sir John it passed to his son Thomas about 1330,¹¹ and then to Richard Charles, whose wife Alice was perhaps aunt of Thomas. Richard was holding it in 1367, and died in 1378,¹² his widow Alice surviving until April 1385,¹³ retaining a third of the manor in dower. Their nephew and heir Richard, the son of Richard's brother Roger Charles, being a minor, the custody of his lands was placed in the hands of William Strete and Stephen Norton.¹⁴ Richard Charles the younger died before 1392, apparently leaving a widow Alice who married Sir Nicholas Haute, and a daughter Joan who subsequently married William Repoun.¹⁵ William and Joan in 1397 conveyed the reversion of the manor after the death of Alice to Vincent Finch,¹⁶ overlord of the estate, and in his family it remained, passing with the manor of Netherfield (q.v.) until 1650,¹⁷ when Netherfield was sold but Icklesham descended in the family of the Earls of Winchilsea until the middle of the 18th century.¹⁸

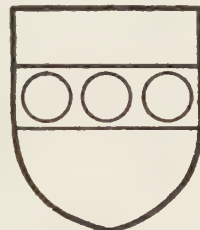
Sometime after 1741 it is said to have been acquired by John, first Earl of Buckinghamshire, who died in 1756, demising it to Sir Richard Lloyd, from whom it was purchased by Arnold Nesbit.¹⁹ The latter was in



HARENGOD. *Azure crusily and six herrings or*

possession before 1766, and held courts there until 1772, after which his nephew John Nesbit succeeded.²⁰ Before the end of the century the manor seems to have passed to Jacob and Moses Franks, for in 1799 one moiety was conveyed by Jacob Franks and Priscilla his wife to Jacob Henry Franks,²¹ and in 1817 Sir William Henry Cooper, bart., whose wife was Isabella Ball, daughter of Moses Franks, conveyed the other moiety to the same.²² Shortly afterwards Icklesham was acquired by Wastel Brisco, whose son Musgrave Brisco was holding it in 1835.²³ After his death it remained in the hands of his widow and her second husband Charles Bay Frewen,²⁴ and probably reverted later to Musgrave's brother Wastel, who died in 1878 leaving three daughters. It is now owned by Mr. Walter Merricks.

The manor of *WICKHAM* was held of the manor of Frenchcourt in Fairlight by the service of half a knight's fee by the heirs of John Bone in 1320,²⁵ and half of it was held in 1347 by John, son and heir of John de Beche.²⁶ John Grenford was holding the manor in 1469,²⁷ but it does not appear again until John Fraye died in 1592, leaving the 'messuage and lands called Wyckam' to John, son of William Fraye. However, his heir in 1608 was declared to be his grandson Fraye Lewkenor, son of his daughter Anne.²⁸ Eventually the property appears to have been sold to Herbert Springett, who died seised of it in 1622.²⁹ His son Sir William Springett died in 1643, and his widow Mary married the Quaker Isaac Pennington, while his daughter and heiress Gulielma Maria Posthuma married William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania, in 1672.³⁰ From this distinguished ownership Wickham passed to their son Springett Penn, and he or his son of the same name was holding it in 1760.³¹ Shortly after that it was acquired by Arnold Nesbit, lord of the manor of Icklesham, who was in possession of it in 1766, and thereafter it remained with the manor of Icklesham.³²



PENN. *Argent a fesse sable with three roundels argent thereon.*

The church of *ALL SAINTS*³³ consists of a nave with north and south aisles, a chancel with lateral chapels, and a tower on the north side, and a modern western porch. The walls consist of thin uncoursed stone and the roofs, which are modern, are tiled.³⁴

The nave dates from the beginning of the 12th century, the aisles and tower being added c. 1150. The

¹ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 567, quoting Pelham Deeds.

² *Red Bk. of Exch.* i, 203.

³ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* x, 144; Subs. R. file 225, no. 40; *Feud. Aids*, v, 151.

⁴ For the pedigree of the families of Icklesham and Harengod see *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lviii, 180-9.

⁵ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. ii), no. 4.

⁶ *Ibid.* no. 131.

⁷ *Ibid.* nos. 429 and 433.

⁸ *Ibid.* nos. 493 and 439.

⁹ *Cal. Chart. R.* 1226-59, p. 412.

¹⁰ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Com.), 125, 127.

¹¹ *Ibid.* 130, 142; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vii, 155.

¹² *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 1 Ric. II, no. 9.

¹³ *Ibid.* 9 Ric. II, no. 16.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* 1 Ric. II, no. 9; *ibid.* 5 Ric.

II, no. 92; *ibid.* 9 Ric. II, no. 16.

¹⁵ De Banco R. 575, m. 179.

¹⁶ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 21 Ric. II.

¹⁷ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 9 & 10 Edw. IV, no. 68; *ibid.* 17 Edw. IV, no. 32; Add. Ch. 20105; *ibid.* 20112; *Chan. Proc.* (Ser. 2), 157 (12); *Inqs.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xxxiii), 39; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccxlix, 173.

¹⁸ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 567. The Countess of Winchilsea paid castle-guard rent in 1741.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ *Ibid.*; Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 6 Geo. III.

²¹ *Ibid.* East. 39 Geo. III.

²² *Ibid.* Trin. 57 Geo. III; G.E.C. *Baronetage*, ii, 445.

²³ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 475.

²⁴ Lower, *Sussex*, i, 259.

²⁵ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, p. 101.

²⁶ De Banco R. 352, m. 323.

²⁷ Rentals and Surv. (P.R.O.), 658.

²⁸ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccii, 91.

²⁹ *Ibid.* cccxcvii, 13.

³⁰ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xx, 36; *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xx), 489.

³¹ *Recov. R.* Trin. 33 & 34 Geo. II, ro. 54.

³² *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix), 238.

³³ The present dedication is to St. Nicholas, but it is probable that this is the dedication of the south chancel only and that the church itself is dedicated in honour of All Saints, as it is so named in the will of John Ichyngton in 1497: *Suss. N. & Q.* i, 154.

³⁴ The church is fully described and illustrated in a paper by Canon G. M. Livett in *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xlviii.

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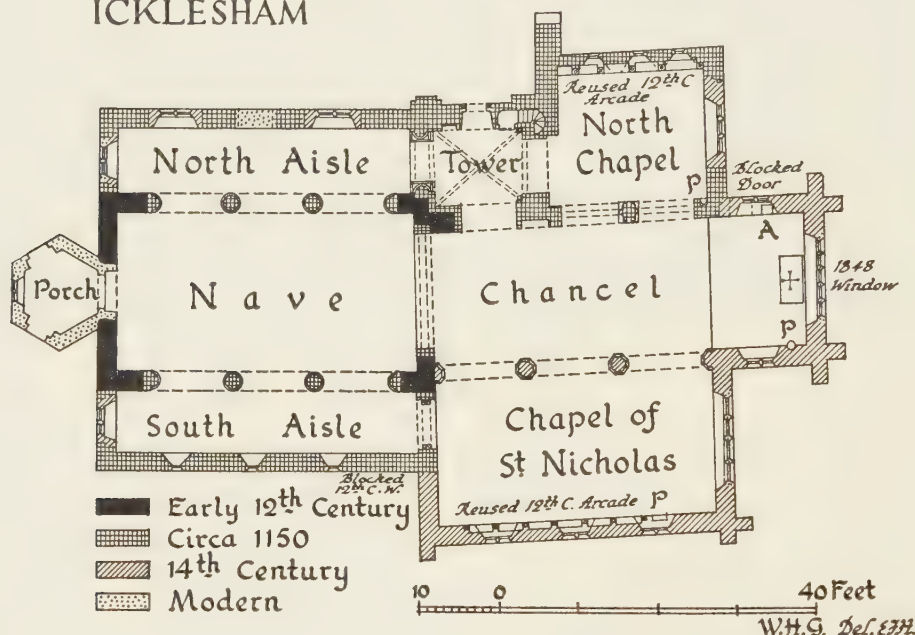
church was remodelled at the end of the century and side chapels added, of which the northern remains. The south chapel was rebuilt in the 14th century, when the chancel was again lengthened.

At the east end the sanctuary projects about 11 ft. 6 in. eastward of the chapels and has at each corner a pair of buttresses, having low plinths and offsets. The east window is of five lights, the tracery dating from a general restoration in 1848; it has a scroll hood-moulding with curled stops, an indication of 14th-century date. Above the window is a round aperture for ventilation, which is an ancient feature, and the gable wall is finished with stone coping and a finial cross. On each side of the sanctuary is an original window of two lights

springs from moulded corbels and engaged shafts of semicircular plan. These arches are now occupied by the organ. At the west end the chapel is connected with the tower by a semicircular arch with plain soffit above a square impost. Running under the windows along the north wall of this chapel is an interesting range of five sedilia like those in the later south chapel. They are formed by arches springing from square caps supported by circular shafts resting on square bases with claw feet. From the fact that a similar sedile remains in the north wall of the chancel, and the signs of misfitting, it seems probable that this arcade was removed from the chancel when this chapel was added.

South of the chancel is the large chapel of St.

PARISH CHURCH of ALL SAINTS ICKLESHAM



with a single quatrefoil light above, and hood-mouldings of the same form as the east window. Internally a string-course runs round below the sills of the three windows, which are all at the same level and have rear-arches and hood-mouldings. In the south wall is a 14th-century piscina with projecting bowl under an ogee arch with crocketed and finialled hood-moulding terminating in animal heads. In the north wall is a plain aumbry and the remains of a blocked doorway. In the chancel, between the arch opening into the tower and the chapel arcade, is one bay of a wall-arcade similar to those in the lateral chapels, described below. The chapel and sanctuary are 50 ft. in length and 17 ft. 3 in. in breadth. The roofs are modern.

On the north side of the chancel west of the sanctuary is a chapel of late-12th-century date having at its eastern end a triple lancet window, the centre light being longer and wider than those on each side of it. This window probably succeeded three separate lancets, as the jamb stones of earlier windows can be seen in the east wall. In the north wall of this chapel there are three lancets set wide apart; they have plain chamfers and no hood-moulding. A large buttress at the west end is partly a later addition.

This chapel is connected with the chancel by a pair of pointed arches of two members, the inner of which

Nicholas, which was appurtenant to the manor of Icklesham. It is 36 ft. long by 20 ft. wide and is of early-14th-century date. It has a pair of buttresses at its south-east corner and one at the south-west. There is a three-light window at its eastern end and three windows of two lights each in its south wall. The east window has been filled with modern tracery under a hood-mould with curled stops, and the three south windows are all similar and have hood-moulds, but internally they are plain. This large chapel opens out of the chancel by three pointed arches of two orders supported by two octagonal piers. In the south wall is an arcade of six bays similar to those in the north chapel and probably these were likewise taken from the chancel when the wall was removed for the addition of this chapel. Eastward of this arcade is a 14th-century piscina under a triangular hood-moulding which is crocketed and finialled like that in the sanctuary. Old prints show that before 1848 there was a raised table-tomb in this chapel, which has since been removed. The chapel opens into the south aisle by a late Norman arch, which indicates that there was an earlier chapel here, and the line of its lean-to roof can still be seen on the exterior of the west wall of the chapel. There are traces of mural paintings on the east wall.

West of the north chapel is the tower, of c. 1150, of

three stories. It has a round-headed doorway on the north side, of two orders, once covered by a porch. At the north corners very shallow buttresses are carried up as high as the second story. Internally the tower communicates with the north chapel, chancel, and north aisle respectively by three round-headed arches. Those on the east and south have impost running through the 4-ft. walls, of square section, but no bases. That on the west has semicircular responds and caps with inverted cone-moulding and an arch of two members plainly chamfered.

On the interior of the north wall are three recessed arches; in the centre one is the door; that on the right has a small doorway to the belfry stair, which is probably an addition. Above there are three window-openings with semicircular heads: that on the north is glazed, those on the east and west now look into the chapel and aisle respectively. The ground-story is vaulted with quadripartite vaulting springing from four corbels carved with grotesque heads.

The second stage of the tower is marked by an offset and contains a circular opening on each of the north, east, and west sides which seems to have taken the place of a window similar to that below. Between this and the third stage there is another offset, above which is on all four sides a large semicircular arch, within which are two round-headed openings divided by a central semicircular shaft. The tower is now covered by a square pointed overall roof which has replaced the parapet built by the restorers of 1848.

The chancel arch is of late-12th-century date; the outer member springs from plain square jambs with moulded impost, and the inner member from a pair of corbels, carved with foliage of very good design. Above the arch on the nave side is a slight offset.

The nave opens into the north and south aisles by arcades of three bays each, which bear a striking resemblance to those of St. Peter's, Bexhill. They are composed of three semicircular arches rising from two round piers and two semicircular responds. The caps and abaci are also round and in one piece and are ornamented with cone and incipient leaf-carving. The arches are of two orders, plainly chamfered, and Caen stone is used throughout. The date of these arcades is about 1150. At the west end of the nave is the entrance-door from the modern six-sided porch, above which is a large four-light window with modern tracery. It has a drip-moulding, and in the gable is a small circular light similar to that at the east end. The original angle quoins of the nave, showing the addition of the aisles, can be clearly seen on the exterior of the west wall.

The north and south aisles are about 6 ft. 6 in. wide internally. They have lean-to roofs which are now a continuation of the nave roof, though originally they were at a lower level, surmounted by a clerestory, now hidden. The wall of the north aisle has been slightly raised and contains two windows, each of two lights under square heads of late-14th-century style. The north door between these windows is now walled up. At the west end of the aisle is a two-light window with pointed head of 14th-century design in modern tracery.

The south aisle is less altered than that on the north.

It retains three small round-headed windows of 12th-century date with plain deep splays, and near the east end a fourth has been blocked up owing to the construction of a stokehole. At the west end there is a two-light 14th-century window similar to that in the north aisle.

There are three bells, two cast by William Hull in 1683, and one dated 1760.¹

The plate consists of a silver communion-cup and paten of the latter half of the 17th century; a silver gilt chalice and paten dated 1910; a silver paten on a foot, given by the Rev. T. Richards in 1843; and an alms dish of silver, given by the Rev. H. B. Whitaker Churton in 1847.²

The registers begin in 1669.

The advowson of Icklesham Church *ADVOWSON* belonged in early times to the lord of the manor, and presentation was made early in the 13th century by Nicholas Harengod.³ He subsequently gave the advowson to Battle Abbey.⁴ His widow Sybil remitted her claims in the advowson to the abbey, but her son and heir Ralph recovered the advowson against the abbot in 1247.⁵ In the following year, however, he and his mother definitely conveyed the advowson to Battle Abbey.⁶ The church must have been appropriated as soon as it came into the hands of the abbey, as Bishop Ranulf (1217-22) licensed the appropriation, subject to the appointment of a vicarage.⁷ Presentation seems later to have been made by the bishop,⁸ although at the Dissolution the abbot surrendered both rectory and advowson into the king's hands,⁹ and in 1541 they were granted to the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury.¹⁰ The advowson of the vicarage, however, seems to have been recovered by the Bishops of Chichester, and remained in their gift until after 1835.¹¹ In 1870 it was held by the Bishop of Oxford,¹² and is now in the gift of the Lord Chancellor.

The great tithes were leased by the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury for terms of 21 years, the tenant being liable to the charge of entertaining for two days the Dean, his horse, and his receiver or surveyor, a duty which was later commuted for £2.¹³

The curacy of the church of the Holy Spirit at Rye Harbour is attached to the vicarage.

A rent of £5 from the rectory of Icklesham was appropriated for the maintenance of a 'Morrow-masse priest' until the dissolution of chantries by Edward VI.¹⁴ The vicar was then the incumbent.

John Fray, by his will dated 8 November 1592, gave 20s. yearly for ever towards the repairing of the parish church. He also gave 40s. a year to the poor of Icklesham and 20s. a year for repairing the highway between Wickham Rock and Pannel Bridge, all to be paid out of his lands and tenements in Icklesham. The charities are regulated by an Order of the Charity Commissioners of 21 July 1896, and are managed by the vicar and churchwardens and 3 persons appointed by the parish council. The property consists of Wickham Farm and Lindhurst Farm let at £4 per annum, which is expended as follows: £1 to Rural District Council of Rye, £1 to

¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi.

² *Ibid.* lv, 201.

³ *Assize R.* 4, m. 7 d.

⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxxii, 106.

⁵ *Assize R.* 4, m. 7 d.

⁶ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. ii), 433 and 439.

⁷ Reg. Sherborne, fol. 82.

⁸ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 476; *Cal. Pat.*

1364-7, p. 244.

⁹ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix), 27.

¹⁰ *Pat. R.* 33 Hen. VIII, pt. 9; *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xvi, g. 878 (59).

¹¹ *Cal. S. P. Dom.* 1667-8, p. 475; *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.); Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 475.

¹² Lower, *Sussex*, i, 259.

¹³ *Ibid.*; Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 476.

¹⁴ *Suss. Chantry Records* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xxxvi), 31 and 55.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

churchwardens of Icklesham, and the remainder in cash to poor people.

Elizabeth Cheyney, by indenture dated 2 September 1611, gave land at Icklesham with the buildings thereon upon trust to be used as an alms-house by two poor men or women. (See Guestling.)

The Bible Christian Chapel, comprised in a conveyance dated 26 March 1855, is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners of 29 July 1927 which

appoints trustees, and provides that the chapel shall be held upon the same trusts as 'The New Model Deed'.

William Underwood Arnold's Charity, founded by will proved in London 8 June 1910, is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 21 July 1916. The charity is administered by 3 trustees appointed by the parish council. The endowment produces about £3 5s. per annum, which is distributed on Good Friday in boots and clothing to poor children.

PETT

Pette, Putte (xiii cent.).

The parish of Pett has an area of 2,065 acres, of which 10 acres are water and 157 acres foreshore. It is bounded on the south-east by the sea and on the south by the Marsham Sewer. The Pannel and Dimsdale Sewers form the northern boundary. The village is situated on a road which runs from west to east along a central ridge, the elevation of which is well over 100 ft. The highest point is 189 ft., near the church, at the western end of the village. From this ridge the land slopes down north and south, but again rises to over 100 ft. at two points in the north. East of the church a lane turns north from the main road, and runs past the rectory. A little farther on a road branches north-east past Elms Farm, an ancient house which has a lower story of stone coated with cement and timber-framed upper walls hung with tiling. The plan was of half H-shape, the wings projecting at the back being later joined up by a low addition. The west wing was built c. 1500 and apparently was an addition to a still earlier building of L-shaped plan. The east wing has heavy shaped posts indicating that it was originally gabled, but no other evidence of a 15th-century roof now remains.

The main (front) room in the west wing contains an early Tudor fire-place of stone in its west wall; this has a four-centred arch in a square head with carved foliage spandrels. Above it is a frieze of eight quatrefoiled circular panels, carved with various devices: one is a shield with two molets in chief, another a molet (only), others, a fleur-de-lis, a Tudor rose, and a tiny chaplet with roses. In the upper room the fire-place in the same projecting stone stack has a Tudor arch of oak.

The other part of the house has a central chimney-stack dividing the two rooms. An oak post at the south-east corner of the western room is corbelled out of solid at the top, which is carved with a lozengy pattern. The door into the room is of the 16th century and has three long panels with moulded muntins, &c. It is hung with a pair of ornamental strap hinges. There is a similar door in the back part of the west wing. The ceilings are open-timbered and have chamfered main beams.

East of the house is a thatched timber-framed barn, also of the 16th century.

Carter's Farm is a house of c. 1500. The upper story of the front has exposed framing with a series of large curved struts and small windows. At the north-east end of the house is a massive projecting stone chimney-stack with gathered-in and crow-stepped sides, probably of the 16th century; it carries a later square shaft of brick which stands free of the weather-boarded end-wall. At the back, now covered by the later parallel

addition, is another stone chimney-stack. The internal cross partitions have old framing with large curved struts like those in the front wall. The roof trusses have king-posts supported by curved struts from the tie-beams and carrying longitudinal curved struts below a central purlin. Both stories have open-timbered ceilings. In the staircase wing at the back is an original four-light window to the upper story, now blocked: it has diamond-shaped oak mullions.

At the east end of the village the main road turns south, down Chick Hill to Pett Coastguard Station, and the end of the Royal Military Canal. The latter runs north through the parish, and beyond it to the east are the marshlands known as Pett Level, only just above sea-level, rising out of which is the Toot Rock, referred to in 1574 as 'Le Toote'.¹ Holford's Farm and Dog's Hill Coastguard Station are in the extreme east of the parish.

The soil of the parish is stiff loam, with a subsoil of rock and gravel, and the principal crops are wheat, oats, and hops.

There is a Methodist chapel in the village, built in 1848.

PETT may perhaps be identical with *MANOR* the 'Ivet' of the Domesday Survey, which before the Conquest was held of Earl Godwin by one Levret, and in 1086 was held by William de Septmuels of the Count of Eu.²

The earliest mention of the 'fee of Pett' is late in the 12th century, when Gilbert de Ore was holding the fee.³ He was probably identical with Gilbert de Pette, who in 1196 confirmed to the Abbey of Robertsbridge various marshlands held of his estate of Pett.⁴

In 1275 Adam de Farley and Joan his wife obtained a third of the manor from William de Stokes, with reversion to William in the event of their having no issue. Ten years later Joan claimed again, as the wife of Roger de Mosewelle, but it was established that the dower should revert to William de Stokes at her death.⁵ In 1287 William and Margery his wife received of Valentine de Grangiis, next of kin to Adam de Farley, a fresh grant of half the manor.⁶ The exact connexion of these persons with the manor is obscure, but the lordship seems to have remained with the family of Ore, judging from the descent of the advowson (q.v.). In 1412 the manor was held by William de Echingham, and was worth £8 13s. 4d.⁷ Since he did not die seised of it, however, it was probably only a lease, or else he was acting as guardian during the minority of the heir. Shortly after this, in 1428, the fee of Ore and Pett appears in the hands of Amice de Ore,⁸ who married John Haule. About 1515 Elizabeth, daughter of John

¹ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxvi, 174.

² *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 405.

³ *Hist. MSS. Com., Rutland*, iv, 80.

⁴ *Suss. Fines* (*Suss. Rec. Soc.* ii), no. 5.

⁵ *Fines* (*Suss. Rec. Soc.* vii), 841; *De Banco R.* 60, m. 47.

⁶ *Fines* (*Suss. Rec. Soc.* vii), 997.

⁷ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* x, 143.

⁸ *Feud. Aids*, v, 151.

Dudley and then widow of Thomas Ashburnham of Broomham, had been holding half the manor of Pett for the last 30 years.¹ It did not pass to her son, and Robert Haule, who had married her sister Ann, was holding the whole manor in 1529.² His grandson Godard Haule, who was holding it in 1544,³ sold all his lands in the neighbourhood about that time, and Pett was acquired by John Thatcher, who died seised of it in 1574, holding it of the Earl of Huntingdon.⁴ John Thatcher's immediate heirs, his granddaughters Anne Stapley and Margery Isham, daughters of his son John, died without issue and the manor reverted to the second son James, who died in 1613. Pett had been settled in 1612 on William Thatcher, second son of James, on his marriage with Ann Tresham, but, as he and his elder brother John both died without issue the manor became subdivided among their eight sisters⁵ and their descendants. The second sister, Margaret Kyffin, died before 1618, which reduced the shares to seven. Katherine, the eldest, remained a spinster and was still living in 1664;⁶ Elizabeth married first Thomas Rootes and secondly Henry Mansfield. She was a recusant, and died without issue in 1652, the heirs mentioned being her nephews James Rootes and Anthony Morgan.⁷ Philippa married Thomas Pudsey and was living in 1652; Ann married James Rootes, brother of Thomas, and had a son James, who had a son Henry and daughters Martha Norfolk and Elizabeth Wharton; Susan and Dorothy, the fifth and sixth sisters, married respectively Bartholomew and Robert Fromond, and Dorothy had a son William and Susan a daughter Elizabeth, who married Sir Anthony Morgan and had a daughter Mary. The youngest Thatcher sister Mary married William Eyston, and was still living at a great age in 1698; she had six sons, the eldest of whom was called William.⁸ After 1650 the division is confused. In 1669 Elizabeth Morgan, as a widow, was holding three sevenths.⁹ In 1653 half a seventh was held by Francis Huett and William Englefield and Mary, whose relationship to the others does not appear, but Francis Huett was holding an eighth in 1664 and a tenth in 1665. The Eyston share was held by a number of the sons, and the Rootes share also became divided up.¹⁰ In 1698 a fresh division of the property was made, again into seven parts, the holders being (1) Mary widow of Peter Farmor (perhaps the daughter of Elizabeth Morgan), (2) Andrew Wharton (son and heir of Thomas) and Elizabeth his wife, (3) Bartholomew Walmesley and John Jenkins, (4) Edmund Boleworth and Grace, (5) Mary Eyston (the youngest of the original Thatcher sisters) and William her son, (6) Barbara Vincent, and (7) Nathaniel Pigott, Anthony Trumbull, and Jordan Metham.¹¹ Shortly afterwards, however, the whole manor seems to have been conveyed to Joseph Gage, and it was sold in 1717 to Thomas Medley by Joseph, Edward, and Thomas Gage, and Benedicta Maria Theresa wife of the latter.¹² For the rest of the 18th century Pett remained in the pos-

session of the Medley family, Edward Medley holding it in 1747,¹³ and George Medley in 1790.¹⁴ Finally, however, it passed to heiresses, and in 1811 was owned by Jane Medley, and Julia Evelyn Medley Shuckburgh, whose mother Annabella Evelyn was daughter and heir of Thomas Medley of Buxted.¹⁵ Julia Evelyn married Charles Cecil Cope Jenkinson, third Earl of Liverpool, who was holding Pett in right of his wife in 1835.¹⁶ He died in 1851, and his estates were divided among his three daughters.



MEDLEY. *Argent two gimel bars sable with three pierced molets sable in the chief.*

The ancient parish church of *ST. MARY AND ST. PETER* which *CHURCH* was demolished in 1869 stood on the site of the present church. It consisted of a short chancel, without buttresses, the east window of which was walled up, and had on the south side two two-light windows and on the north a square sashed window and two single-light windows with pointed heads. There was a rectangular nave with an angle buttress at the south-west corner and a wooden bell-cote at the west end. On the north side was a small porch with side lights, and there was a blocked south doorway. The nave was lighted on the south by a pair of two-light windows and on the north by a two-light window with square label and a small rectangular pulpit light near the east end.¹⁷

The plan and dimensions of the modern church resemble those of the old, with the addition of a tower and spire on the north side of the nave. The church consists of a nave 52 ft. in length and 22 ft. in width internally, and a chancel of 18 ft. by 16 ft. with a small lean-to vestry on the south. The walls are faced with local bluestone with Bath stone quoins and string-course. The chancel has a three-light east window, and on the north are two lancet windows. The south side of the chancel has no windows, but is partly occupied by the organ and by a doorway into the vestry, which is entered from the outside through a little porch at the east end and is lighted by a small window in the south wall.

The chancel arch is elaborately moulded, springing from square capitals each carved with foliage and four corbel heads, below which are responds, each with a pair of engaged marble columns. The nave consists of four bays, formed by three principals supporting the roof, and has on the south side four windows, and on the north three windows and a doorway in the western bay. All these windows are of two lights with a quatrefoil in the upper part.¹⁸ At the west end there is a three-light traceried window. The small tower is about 8 ft. 6 in. square internally and forms on the ground floor an entrance porch to the church, and the upper part of the tower assumes an octagonal form, in which

1835, says: 'The interior is particularly neat. A gallery was erected at the west end in 1824. A cast of the Royal Arms is placed in the centre. The font was given in 1753.'

¹⁸ The easternmost window on the south is filled with stained glass by Cecil Lord Hawkesbury in memory of his ancestors of the Medley family, formerly lords of the manor, also of his grandfather the 3rd Earl of Liverpool.

¹ Early Chan. Proc. 379, no. 7.

² Recov. R. Trin. 21 Hen. VIII, ro. 322.

³ Com. Pl. Deeds Enr. Hil. 36 Hen. VIII, m. 15.

⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), clxvii, 81.

⁵ Inqs. (Suss. Rec. Soc. xiv), 1019.

⁶ Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 16 Chas. II.

⁷ Cal. Com. Comp. 2123.

⁸ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 17; Suss. Rec. Soc. xx, 299-301.

⁹ Recov. R. Hil. 21 & 22 Chas. II, ro. 33.

¹⁰ Suss. Rec. Soc. xx, 300.

¹¹ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 18.

¹² Suss. Rec. Soc. xx, 347.

¹³ Recov. R. Hil. 21 Geo. III, ro. 17.

¹⁴ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 371.

¹⁵ Recov. R. Mich. 52 Geo. III, ro. 325;

G.E.C. Baronetage, iii, 63.

¹⁶ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 470.

¹⁷ Horsfield, describing the church in

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are eight belfry louvre openings, and terminates in a small spire. The outer entrance is under a pointed moulded arch above jambs with marble nook-shafts.

In the chancel is a marble wall-tablet by Westmacott to the memory of Cordelia Sayer of Hastings (1820). Attached to the north respond of the chancel arch is a small brass to George Theobald with the following inscription:

Ædibus his moriens campanam sponte dedisti,
 Laudes pulsandae sunt, Theobalde, tuæ.
 Heere lies George Theobald, a lover of Bells,
 And of this howse as that epitaph tells,
 He gave a bell freely to grace the new steple,
 Ring out his prayse therefore ye good people.
 Obiit 10mo die Martii, Anno Dom. 1641.

The one bell is of this date, 1641, but is inscribed: 'Robert Foster gave xlv. toward me.'¹

The plate consists of a silver cup and paten of, apparently, 1698, and a silver alms plate of 1835.²

The registers begin in 1612.

In the churchyard just east of the tower is an ancient gravestone with two shafts springing from a base of four steps, all in relief; the shafts do not end in crosses but die into the stone.

The advowson evidently went with the manor, as Richard de Ore and Cecily his wife presented in the

time of Henry III, and Cecily, as a widow, recovered the advowson against Roger de Mose-
ADVOWSON welle and Joan in 1274.³ It follows the descent of the manor, Robert de Ore presenting between 1397 and 1405, John and William Halle between 1409 and 1444,⁴ until the end of the 17th century⁵ (with the exception of presentations made in 1615 by John Taylor and in 1622 by Thomas Bennett) but did not pass with the manor to the Medleys. During the 18th century it changed hands many times, presentation being made in 1702 and 1726 by David Denham, in 1731 by Everard Levitt, in 1745 by Stephen Kennard, in 1750 by William Hyland and John Alde, in 1765 by Grace Geere, and in 1772 and 1823 by Diones Geere.⁶ In 1835 the Rev. Henry Wynch was patron,⁷ and in 1870 Henry Young.⁸ It is now in the gift of trustees.

William Underwood Arnold's *CHARITIES* ity, founded by will proved in London on 8 June 1910, is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 20 October 1916. The endowment produces about £3 10s. per annum. The trustees, three in number, are appointed by the parish council and the income is applied in providing boots and clothing for children.

¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 188, 220.

² *Ibid.* lv, 203.

³ Add. MS. 39373, fol. 83.

⁴ *Reg. of Bps. Rede and Praty* (Suss.

Rec. Soc.).

⁵ *Recov. R. Trin.* 21 Hen. VIII, ro.

322; *Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.)*; *Recov. R. Trin.*

3 Chas. I, ro. 79.

⁶ *Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.)*.

⁷ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 470.

⁸ Lower, *Sussex*, i, 82.

THE HUNDRED OF HAWKSBOROUGH

CONTAINING THE PARISHES OF

BURWASH¹ HEATHFIELD WARBLETON

ALTHOUGH the exact site of Hawksborough is lost, it is known to have been in Heathfield.² At the time of the Domesday Survey the hundred consisted of Warbleton with the addition of a large group of estates which in King Edward's time had been attached to manors in the rape of Pevensey. These included detached portions of the manors of Beddingham, West Firle, Arlington, Laughton, Stockingham in Laughton, Eckington, Ripe, Tilton, East Dean, Willingdon, Sessingham, Ratton, Burton, and Waldron, and the unidentified manor of 'Achingeworde'.³ In the 13th century the hundred consisted of the four 'vills' of Burwash, Warbleton, Tottingworth (in Heathfield), and Bivelham (in Mayfield). It is stated in 1288 that the men of the Bishop of Chichester's manor of Heathfield paid scot and lot with the other men of the hundred until six years previously, when the bishop withdrew them.⁴

These four divisions remained in the 14th century,⁵ but before 1539 that of Tottingworth appears to have dropped out.⁶ Bivelham continued in the hundred until late in the 16th century,⁷ but disappeared before 1624, when the three divisions of the hundreds are returned as at present, Burwash, Heathfield, and Warbleton.⁸ Parts of Dallington (mainly in Netherfield Hundred) and of Mayfield and Wadhurst (which will be treated under the Rape of Pevensey) are also in this hundred. The descent of the hundred follows that of the rape.

¹ Part of Burwash is in the hundred of Hawksborough and part in Henhurst; and part of Heathfield is in Dill Hundred in the rape of Pevensey.

² *Suss. N. & Q.* iii, 29.

³ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 400.

⁴ Assize R. 924, m. 45.

⁵ *Subsidies* (Suss. Rec. Soc. x), 9, 218, 330.

⁶ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (1), 298. It is, however, mentioned again towards the end of the century: Add. Chart. 33175.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 426.

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BURWASH

Burghassh, Burghers (xiii cent.); Burewassh (xiv cent.); Burwash (xv cent.); Burryshe (xvi cent.).

The parish of Burwash, including Burwash Common and Burwash Weald, contains 7,452 acres of land of which 13 are covered with water and about 1,200 acres with wood. Much of the land is under grass, but wheat and some hops are grown. The soil is a white clay and the subsoil sand.

The village is situated on the road from Lewes to Hawkhurst. The height of the land varies considerably. In the south many parts rise from 300 to 400 ft., Park-hill Farm even reaching a height of 500 ft., while in the north the average height is 100 ft.

The River Dudwell flows through the parish in a north-easterly direction, and the Rother for some distance forms its northern boundary.

In the main street of the village are a number of ancient houses. On the north side, at the east end, Sones Cottage is of 15th-century origin. The overhanging south front is partly underbuilt with brick but shows some timber-framing with curved braces and large corner-post. About 1600 a first floor and a chimney-stack with grouped shafts were introduced into the one-storied hall. The east fire-place has a four-centred head of wood, and spandrels carved with (1) a Tudor rose, (2) a hammer, pincers, and adze. There are moulded 15th-century ceiling-beams. The roof is in three 12-ft. bays, with king-posts with curved braces to the central purlin and curved struts to the cambered tie-beams, which are carried on shaped wall-posts. Burghurst, said to have been the manor-house, though externally of 18th-century brick, also retains traces of a 15th-century hall in the roof, consisting of two bays with king-posts having moulded caps, bases, and central band, with four-way braces, and curved struts to the tie-beams. Re-used as a rafter is a 16th-century barge-board carved with chevron ornament. Six tenements called Shadwell Row, a block of four cottages called Chapel Row, and the Bell Inn all retain features of the early 17th century, though much disguised by later work. Lime House also, though refronted, has heavy beams and joists of the early 17th century and paneling of slightly later date. West of this is a building, now a greengrocer's and a butcher's shop, which incorporates a large part of the main 15th-century trusses with cambered hollow-chamfered tie-beams carried on shaped wall-posts and supporting octagonal king-posts with moulded caps and bases, and four-way braces.

Near the west end of the street is the White House, a large three-storied early-18th-century building with an ashlar front and wood cornice. The doorway is flanked by Roman Doric pilasters supporting a cornice and a hood with acanthus brackets, and there is a good staircase with turned and moulded balusters. The barber's shop just west of this is of 15th-century origin, with an early-17th-century wing incorporating part of the original west wall. The south front has an overhanging upper floor carried on curved braces and, at the east end, on a heavy, shaped corner-post; and the east wall also has an overhang. Some of the original framing, with big studding, is visible inside. On a ceiling-beam in the centre room are fragments of a painted black-letter inscription, and there are said to be wall-paintings beneath the wallpaper. On the first floor some

of the plaster-work has 17th-century pargetting with guilloche ornament. The roof retains part of its king-post construction.

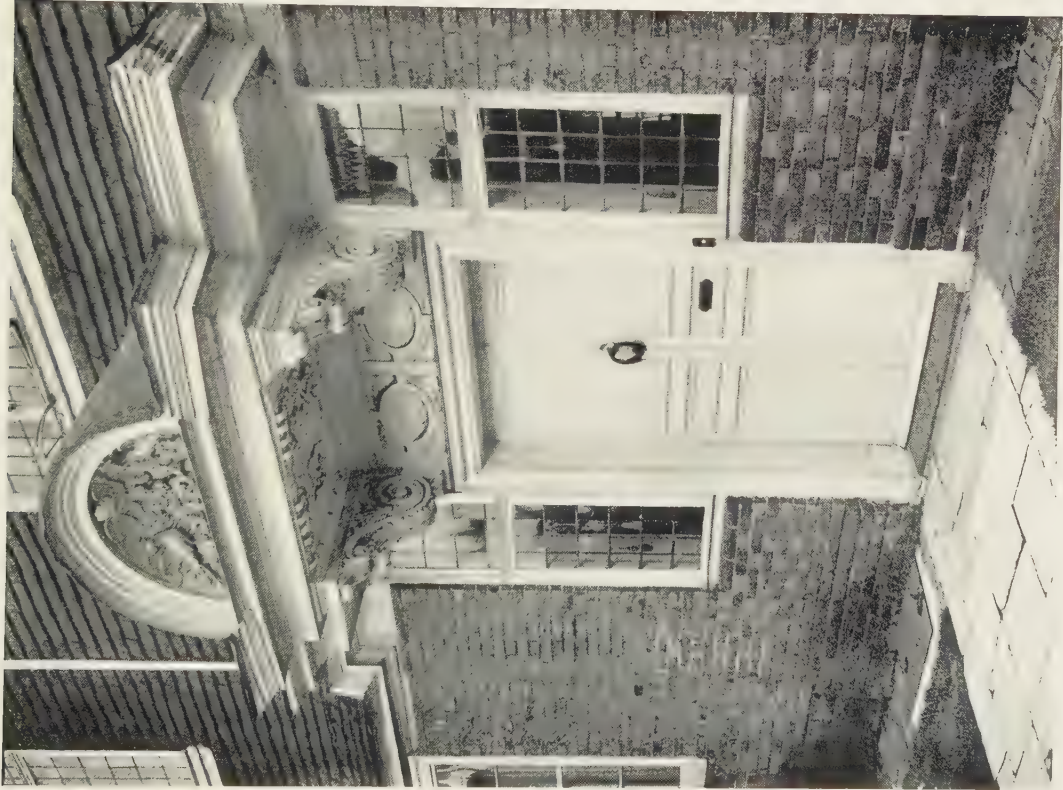
On the south side of the street, towards the east end, is 'Rampyndene', a large square house built by John Butler, a timber merchant, in 1699, which date, with the initials I.B., was formerly on a panel above the door and is still to be seen in the plasterwork of the ceiling over the stair. The north front is an exceptionally good and well-proportioned example of the period, in three bays, the ground floor of brick, in Flemish bond with black headers, and the upper floor faced with tiles. Above the central doorway carved brackets carry a hood containing a plaster-work design with a cherub's head, two doves, and flowers. The hall, lined with contemporary moulded panelling, runs through the centre of the house, now enclosing the staircase, which was formerly partitioned off. The ceiling is of fine plaster-work, in three panels, with fruit and flowers and other ornaments in high relief. The staircase is in six flights and has turned and moulded balusters, and square newels with moulded caps and shaped pendants.

At the same end of the street Mount House dates from about 1550, to which period the main framework of the lower part belongs. The gabled east wing was reconstructed about 1620, to which period some of the doors and panelling belong; and the western two-thirds about 1720, when the present staircase was inserted. A few yards south-west of the house is a 16th-century barn of timber-framing. The east and west ends are two-storied. The roof has tie-beams carried on shaped wall-posts and large curved braces. The two end trusses are of queen-post construction.

The Old Rectory, in a short street parallel with the main street on the south, is now divided into several tenements, and is of 15th-century origin. About 1600 the first floor and chimney-stack, with grouped shafts, were inserted in the one-storied hall, and the western end was rebuilt in the 18th century. There is some exposed timber-framing internally with stop-chamfered ceiling-beams. Parts of three 15-ft. bays of the original roof remain, with cambered tie-beams and king-posts. Opposite the west end of the church is an early-17th-century house of timber-framing with curved braces to the vertical posts. The main fire-place is of unusual size and has a heavy cambered and stop-chamfered lintel. The Rose and Crown Inn, lying back from the main street on the north side, is of late-16th-century origin, refaced and much altered but retaining some moulded ceiling-beams.

In the eastern corner of the parish Fisher's Farm has an east wing of about 1600, refaced with early-18th-century brick. The chimney-stack has two diagonal shafts and contains fire-places with four-centred moulded heads and continuous jambs, that on the ground floor having a fire-back with a leopard, thistle, rose, and fleur-de-lis and the date 1649. Willard's Hill Cottage was a 15th-century hall house, into which the usual floor and central chimney-stack were inserted in the late 16th century. The timber-framing, with original shaped wall-posts, is exposed and west of the chimney-stack is an octagonal king-post, with moulded cap and base, which formed part of an early roof truss.

Rye Green lies about a mile south-west of the church.



THE DOORWAY

BURWASH: RAMPYNDENE



PLASTERWORK OF HALL CEILING



BURWASH: BATEMAN'S, THE HALL



BURWASH: BATEMAN'S, EAST FRONT

The centre portion, now including a chimney-stack of c. 1600, was the cross wing of a 15th-century house; the east end, on the site of the hall, is of the late 17th century, and the west about a century later. The roof to the early portion is of side-purlin and braced collar-beam construction, and there is one original cambered tie-beam with big curved braces.

'Holmshurst', some 2 miles west of the church, is a square house of brick with stone dressings. The main, east front is in three bays, the two outer marked by steep gables; the doorway, in the south bay, bears the initials G. H. (Hepburn) and the date 1610, to which date the building belongs, except for an addition of about 1650 on the west and a modern north porch. Many of the original windows remain, especially on the south side. Inside are several good contemporary fire-places, two with ornate overmantels; that in the panelled north-west room has a carved frieze with foliage and two children with lutes. The north-east room on the first floor has a plaster ceiling in four panels, with leopards' heads and other ornaments. There are two 17th-century staircases, and the roof retains some of the original construction, with queen-posts, collars, and side purlins.

'Batemans', in the valley of the River Dudwell, for many years the home of Mr. Rudyard Kipling, was built in 1634 by John Brittan, a Sussex iron-master. The plan was a modified H shape, with the porch in the middle of the east side, but the space on the west between the projecting wings was soon afterwards built in and additions made to the north wing. These additions, and two-thirds of the north wing itself, were subsequently pulled down. The house is built of good coursed ashlar, and the large brick chimney-stacks are a notable feature; the main stack, towards the centre of the house, has six diagonal shafts on a rectangular base, and the north and south stacks have one diagonal and two square shafts, all with cappings of projecting brick courses. The main feature of the east front is the three-storied gabled porch, the entrance to which is a round arch within a rectangular frame of pilasters and cornice, crowned by a triangular pediment of reversed scrolls enclosing a circular recess and the date 1634. The south wing has gables at its east and west ends; the shortened north wing has been refaced on the east and bears on its north and west walls evidence of the former additions, referred to above. Most of the windows are original, with moulded jambs and labels. Internally, the hall, the dining-room to the north, and the parlour to the south-east have 17th-century panelling and exposed ceiling-beams and joists. The staircase hall, to the west, is also panelled, and the stair, in three flights, has turned and moulded balusters and square newels with strapwork ornament on the face and shaped terminals. Several of the first-floor rooms retain their

original doors, with moulded vertical battens. The fire-places are mostly contemporary, with four-centred heads in stone, and five of them contain 17th-century fire-backs. A few yards north-west of the house, and linked to it by a modern passage is a double 18th-century brick oast-house.

The Rev. William Hayley, writing in 1776, says: 'The original mansion house (of Burwash) is said to have been in a field half a mile south of the church, of which every trace has been obliterated long since though some memorial seems to remain in the barn on the said land still called the Court Barn. The courts of the said manor are held for Burwash at the sign of the Bear and for the manor of Burgherst at what is now the dwelling of Mr. Richard Johnson, shopkeeper.'¹



BURWASH: HOLMSHURST

Ironworks were formerly carried on in the parish,² traces of which survive in the names Furnace and Forge Woods and Burwash Forge.

Burwash under its old name of Burghersh gives a courtesy title to the eldest son of the Earl of Westmorland. Francis Fane, created Baron Burghersh in 1624, was the son of Baroness Despenser, lineal descendant of Hugh Despenser, with whose family the family of Burghersh had been connected by marriage.³

Burwash Weald is an ecclesiastical parish formed by Order in Council of 30 October 1877 from parts of the parishes of Heathfield, Burwash, and Mayfield. The church of St. Philip, erected in 1867, is a vicarage in the gift of the Bishop of Chichester.

The manor of *BURWASH* is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey, but it was probably then included in 'Bellingham', where the Count of Eu held 5½ hides,⁴ since Henry Count of Eu (1096-1139) granted to his collegiate church at Hastings 10s. rent out of his demesnes of Burwash.⁵

The manor appears to have been held in demesne by the Counts of Eu until the forfeiture of their estates in 1244, when it passed into the hands of the king. In 1252 it was held by the king's son Edward, who in that year was granted a weekly market on Fridays, and

¹ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 12.

² Feet of F. Hil. Suss. 13 & 14 Chas. II; Suss. Arch. Coll. ii, 207; Straker,

Wealden Iron, 303-7.

³ G.E.C. *Complete Peerage* (1st ed.), viii, 115.

⁴ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 400a.

⁵ Dugdale, *Mon.* viii, 1470; Anct. D. (P.R.O.), D 1073.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

a fair on the vigil, day, and morrow of SS. Philip and James¹ (1 May).

At the inquisition taken in 1280 the manor was found to be worth £18 2s. 1½d.,² but another taken later, in 1344, shows the value as only £9 9s. 6d.³

Subsequently the manor was granted, with the rape, to the Earls of Brittany, and in 1288 the earl had view of frankpledge there, with assize of bread and ale, gallows, pillory, and free warren.⁴ In 1310 John of Brittany was granted an additional fair on the feast of St. Bartholomew (24 Aug.) and an extension for two days following each feast.⁵ In that year it was reported that the buildings of the manor were destroyed and of no value, and the crops of the garden consisted of nettles and fruit.⁶ Bartholomew de Burghersh, holder of the other manor of Burwash or Burghurst, was farmer of this manor during the next few years.⁷ About 1360 John Earl of Richmond, and later of Lancaster, had the manor house rebuilt.⁸ John Norbury was lessee of the manor in 1411–12.⁹

Burwash continued to descend with the Rape of Hastings,¹⁰ always in conjunction with the manors of Crowhurst and Bivelham (q.v.), and came ultimately to Thomas Duke of Newcastle,¹¹ who appears to have granted the manor to his brother Henry, the statesman of the time of George II, who held it until his death in 1754,¹² when it descended to his four daughters, Catherine, who married Henry Earl of Lincoln; Grace wife of Lewis Lord Sondes; and Frances and Mary who remained spinsters.¹³ They sold it at the end of the century to John Earl of Ashburnham,¹⁴ in whose family it has since remained, the Countess of Ashburnham being the present lady of the manor.

The market has long been discontinued, but in 1888 fairs were still held on 12 May and 4 October.¹⁵

A second manor of Burwash or *BURGHURST* was early held by a family of that place-name, the overlordship following the descent of the main manor. Herbert de Burghersh died early in 1256 and his eldest son John died without issue shortly afterwards;¹⁶ the second son, Reynold, died in 1264, leaving a son Robert, then 3 years old.¹⁷ This Robert de Burghersh, Warden of the Cinque Ports in 1298,¹⁸ died seised of this manor in 1306, leaving a son Stephen,¹⁹ who received a grant of free warren in his lands there in the following year, but died in 1310, leaving a widow Cecily.²⁰ His daughter and



BURGHERSH. Gules a lion or with a forked tail.

heir Maud married first Walter de Paveley, who died in 1326 or 1327,²¹ and secondly Thomas de Aldon, who died seised of Burghurst in 1361.²² Four years later his son Thomas conveyed the manor to Bartholomew de Burghersh, his mother's cousin,²³ and Sir Walter de Paveley, son of Maud's first husband, also released his claims in it.²⁴

Bartholomew died in 1369,²⁵ and his widow Margaret married William Burcester, and died about 1393.²⁶ In January 1396 Sir William Burcester received permission to marry Margaret, widow of Sir Thomas Brewes (or Braiose),²⁷ and in 1400 he settled the manor on her for life, with remainder to his son John and contingent remainder to John's sister Willelme, who married Walter Urry before 1423.²⁸ Willelme's daughter Alice married Sir Thomas Hoo.²⁹ On the death of Alice her father and her husband sold the reversion.³⁰ Subsequently Joan, widow of Sir John Lewknor,³¹ stated that the reversion of the manor had been settled upon her and her husband. At the same time Sir Roger Copley, son-in-law and one of the heirs of Thomas Lord Hoo and Hastings (half brother of Sir Thomas Hoo), claimed that the estate had been sold to him by Sir Thomas Hoo.³² Burghurst was held in 1503 by Richard Copley,³³ who seems to have parted with it in that year.

Shortly afterwards it passed to Edmund Dudley, the minister of Henry VII, who had been made steward of the rape of Hastings in 1506 and was executed on a charge of conspiracy on the accession of Henry VIII.³⁴ He left Burghurst to his wife with remainder to his children, appointing Sir Andrew Windsor, whose sister he had married, one of the trustees.³⁵ In 1538 his sons Sir John and Andrew Dudley sold the manor to Anthony Rouse.³⁶ From him it appears to have been acquired by Thomas Wybarne of Ticehurst, who was holding Burghurst in 1559.³⁷ In 1567 John Wybarne claimed against Sir John Pelham, owner of the other Burwash manor, part of the waste lands, which he alleged had belonged to his manor since they were divided in the time of Sir Thomas Aldon.³⁸

John Wybarne in 1591 was succeeded by his son William, who died seised in 1612,³⁹ when it passed to his brother Edward, who held it till his death in 1625.⁴⁰ His son Benjamin in 1630 conveyed the manor to William Langham.⁴¹

During the next hundred years the descent of Burghurst is obscure. In 1664 it was conveyed by Joseph and Alice Newington to Edward Polhill,⁴² but there is no further record of it until 1741, by which time it had passed into the possession of Thomas Holles, Duke of

¹ *Cal. Close*, 1251–3, p. 82.

² *Cal. Inq. Misc.* i, 1185.

³ *Chan. Inq. Misc.* 17 Edw. III, file 149, no. 99.

⁴ *Assize R.* 924, m. 45.

⁵ *Cal. Chart. R.* iii, 137.

⁶ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 1858.

⁷ *Mins. Accts. bdle.* 1091, no. 10.

⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1358–61, p. 331.

⁹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* x, 136.

¹⁰ *Cal. Pat.* 1422–9, p. 533, &c.

¹¹ *Recov. R. Mich.* 2 Geo. I, ro. 262.

¹² *Ct. Rolls: Add. MS.* 5679, fol. 177.

¹³ *Feet of F. Suss. Hil.* 8 Geo. III; *ibid.* Hil. 28 Geo. II; *Recov. R. Trin.* 28 Geo. II, ro. 305 and 310; *ibid.* Hil. 3 Geo. III, ro. 409.

¹⁴ *Add. MS.* 5679, fol. 177; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxi, 128.

¹⁵ *Roy. Com. Market Rights*, 208.

¹⁶ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (*Hist. MSS. Com.*), i, 107.

¹⁷ *Coram Rege R.* 184, m. 30.

¹⁸ *Cal. Close*, 1296–1302, pp. 215, 246.

¹⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 34 Edw. I, no. 41.

²⁰ *Ibid.* 3 Edw. II, no. 2; *Cal. Close*, 1307–13, p. 208.

²¹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vii, no. 3.

²² *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 35 Edw. III, pt. 1, no. 10.

²³ Son of Bartholomew, son of Robert: *Add. MS.* 39374, fol. 193.

²⁴ *Cal. Close*, 1364–8, pp. 178, 179, and 196.

²⁵ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

²⁶ *Cal. Fine R.* xi, 119; *Feet of F. Suss. Trin.* 12 Rich. II.

²⁷ *Cal. Pat.* 1391–6, p. 702.

²⁸ *Cal. Close*, 1422–9, p. 70.

²⁹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* viii, 131; *Early*

Chan. Proc. 38, no. 105.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ Probably son of Sir Thomas Lewknor, who married Sir Thomas Hoo's mother.

³² *Early Chan. Proc.* 40, no. 47.

³³ *De Banco R. Mich.* 19 Hen. VII, m. 298.

³⁴ *Dict. Nat. Biog.* xvi, 101.

³⁵ *Star. Chamb. Proc. bdle.* 28, no. 110.

³⁶ *Feet of F. Suss. Mich.* 30 Hen. VIII; *Recov. R. Trin.* 30 Hen. VIII, ro. 350.

³⁷ *Inqs. (Suss. Rec. Soc. iii)*, 5.

³⁸ *Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2)*, *bdle.* 195, no. 11.

³⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2)*, cxi, 183.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.* v, 407.

⁴¹ *Feet of F. Suss. Trin.* 6 Chas. I.

⁴² *Fines (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix)*, 81.

Newcastle,¹ owner of the main manor of Burwash, and subsequently their descent was the same.

A *PARK* seems to have been formed in the manor of Burwash by the Counts of Eu, for in 1247 the custodian of the lands of Alice Countess of Eu was ordered to give to John Sylvester four bucks from the park of Burwash, for the use of the king's children at Windsor.² Later it was granted with the manor to the Earls of Brittany, and in 1334 had an extent of 100 acres.³

BROOKSMARLE [Broxmayle (xiii cent.); Broxmedle, Broksmayle (xiii to xvi cent.)] appears early in the 13th century to have formed part of the possessions of the Lunsford family, of Lunsford in Etchingham (q.v.). Maud daughter and heir of Hugh de Lunsford conveyed 'all her land of Broxmayle' early in the reign of Henry III to William de St. Leger and Sybil his wife.⁴ In 1265 a grant of free warren in his demesne lands here was made to Geoffrey de St. Leger,⁵ who owned the manor of Bucksteep, in Warbleton, and it subsequently descended with that manor⁶ (q.v.) until the 16th century, after which there is no further record.

The so-called manor of *FORSTERS* or *FOSTERS* was held of the Park of Burwash; the mansion-house pertaining to it was called the Parkhouse.⁷ 'Forsters tenement of the Parke' was held in 1508 by John a Wyke as tenant of John Forster,⁸ and subsequently by Henry a Wyke under Richard Foster.⁹ It next appears in 1618, then for the first time called a manor, when it was sold by trustees with the Parkhouse and the mill to Thomas Pelham of Laughton for £1,500.¹⁰ With that family it remained, but in 1625 was leased to Sir Robert Foster and Elizabeth his wife and their son Thomas.¹¹ The remainder of the lease was transferred to Thomas, eldest son of Sir Robert, on his marriage with Avice Alston, for their joint lives.¹² Sir John Pelham in 1656 settled the manor on his wife Lucy, daughter of Robert Earl of Leicester, with reversion to his eldest son,¹³ but on the marriage of Henry, youngest son of Sir John, with Frances Heath the reversion was granted to him.¹⁴

In 1741 Fosters, with other Burwash manors, was in the possession of Thomas Duke of Newcastle;¹⁵ but probably this refers to the overlordship, since Henry Pelham's grandson Thomas, afterwards Earl of Chichester, was holding it in 1750,¹⁶ and he with his wife Anne in 1787 conveyed it to Abraham Baley;¹⁷ but in the following year it is said to have been owned by John Blagrave.¹⁸ In 1807 it was conveyed by Thomas Coveney and Mary, Edward Fisher and Philadelphia, Thomas Hilder, David Dunk, and John Fisher, to John Coleman,¹⁹ after which it is lost sight of.

The first mention of the reputed manor of *ST. GILES*²⁰ is in 1530, when it was in the possession of Goddard Oxenbridge,²¹ who died seised of it in 1531, holding it of Andrew Lord Windsor.²² His son Thomas died in 1540,²³ and in 1569 Andrew son of Thomas conveyed it to George May, an ironmaster of Burwash.²⁴ In 1600 Thomas May and his wife Barbara sold the estate to Thomas Elphick of Seaford,²⁵ who two years later conveyed it to Richard Weller and his wife Alice.²⁶ The latter may have afterwards married Richard Toope, who with Alice his wife was in possession in 1609 and in 1634.²⁷ The next recorded owner of the manor is Thomas Jenkins, who in 1706 sold it to Robert Chambers.

By 1755 it had passed to the family of Dyke,²⁸ who are said to have acquired it from the Polhills.²⁹ Richard Still Dyke died seised of it in 1761, leaving it to his wife Anne.³⁰ She married Henry Hone Haviland and they were holding it jointly in 1829,³¹ and in 1835 he still held in right of his wife.³² In 1869 the possessor was Mr. Newton.³³

TURZES [Tireshers, Tyresesse (xiii cent.); Tyriscerch (xv cent.); Tereshish, Tyreshers, Terses (xvii cent.)] formed part of the Bishopstone fee of the bishopric of Chichester in the 13th century.³⁴ In 1447 Turzes was one of the manors in which Adam Bishop of Chichester was granted licence to empark land and crenellate a house.³⁵ A family of this name³⁶ seems to have been sub-tenants of the bishops. Reynold de Tyreshers was one of those who took advantage of the disorders of the Barons' Wars (1263-5) to rob their neighbours.³⁷ After his death a dispute over his will began between two of his sons in the garden of the manor and ended in Reynold, a clerk, killing his brother Thomas inside the manor-house.³⁸

By 1610 the manor had come into the possession of John Shoyswell, who sold, or mortgaged, it to Arthur Michelbourne in 1614.³⁹ It subsequently passed to Thomas Michelbourne, who married Dorothy, daughter of Benjamin Shoyswell,⁴⁰ and died before 1656, leaving the manor to his daughters Thomasine Thorpe and Mary Bethell. They then conveyed it to William Gunston.⁴¹ From Thomas and John Gunston, who were holding it in 1675,⁴² it is said to have passed to John's nephew John Lane,⁴³ who was the owner in 1729.⁴⁴ It was sold by Thomas Lane in 1730 to William Constable,⁴⁵ whose son John owned Turzes in 1775, but was succeeded by another William Constable, probably his son, before 1786.⁴⁶ After that there is no further record of the manor. Courts had formerly been held but had then long since lapsed.

¹ Ibid. 206.

² *Cal. Close*, 1242-7, p. 532; cf. *ibid.* 344.

³ *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 8 Edw. III (1st nos.), no. 70; *ibid.* 8 Edw. I, no. 50; *Cal. Pat.* 1301-7, pp. 26, 347; *Mins. Accts. bdle.* 116, no. 9.

⁴ *Add. Chart.* 31309.

⁵ *Cal. Chart. R.* 1257-1300, p. 84.

⁶ *Chart. R.* 30 Edw. I, m. 6, no. 50; *Cal. Pat.* 1388-92, p. 403; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* viii, 120; *L. & P. Hen. VIII*, iii, 779.

⁷ *Add. MS.* 5679, fol. 409; *Add. Chart.* 29753.

⁸ *Add. Chart.* 29734.

⁹ *Ibid.* 29738-41.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* 29753, &c.

¹¹ *Ibid.* 29760.

¹² Feet of F. *Suss. Trin.* 1649.

¹³ *Add. MS.* 5679, fol. 409.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* fol. 411.

¹⁵ *Fines* (*Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix), 206.

¹⁶ *Recov. R. Hil.* 24 Geo. II, ro. 149.

¹⁷ Feet of F. *Suss. Trin.* 27 Geo. III.

¹⁸ *Add. MS.* 5679, fol. 411.

¹⁹ *Fines* (*Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix), 172.

²⁰ The manor lay to the north of the road through the village, and in 1776 the manor-house was 'about a quarter of the way down the village': *Add. MS.* 5679, fol. 473.

²¹ Feet of F. *Trin.* 22 Hen. VIII.

²² *Chan. Inq.* p.m. (Ser. 2), cxvi, 116.

²³ *Ibid.* lxii, 27.

²⁴ Feet of F. *Suss. Hil.* 11 Eliz.

²⁵ *Ibid.* East. 42 Eliz.

²⁶ *Ibid.* East. 44 Eliz.

²⁷ *Ibid.* East. 7 Jas. I; *ibid.* *Trin.* 10 Chas. I.

²⁸ *Recov. R. Mich.* 1755, ro. 246.

²⁹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxi, 130.

³⁰ *Add. MS.* 5679, fol. 473; Feet of F. *Suss. Mich.* 18 Geo. III.

³¹ Feet of F. *Suss. East.* 10 Geo. IV.

³² *Horsfield, Sussex*, i, 578.

³³ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxi, 130.

³⁴ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxi, 87, 143.

³⁵ *Cal. Chart. R.* vi, 94-5.

³⁶ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley MSS.* (*Hist. MSS. Com.*), 61, 67, 80, 96, 125.

³⁷ *Assize R.* 1207.

³⁸ *Ibid.* 934, m. 1.

³⁹ *Fines* (*Suss. Rec. Soc.* xx), 435.

⁴⁰ Feet of F. *Div. Co. Hil.* 1653; *Visit. of Suss.* (*Harl. Soc.*), 88.

⁴¹ *Fines* (*Suss. Rec. Soc.* xx), 435.

⁴² *Ibid.*

⁴³ *Add. MS.* 5680, fol. 383.

⁴⁴ *Fines* (*Suss. Rec. Soc.* xx), 435.

⁴⁵ *Add. MS.* 5680, fol. 383.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

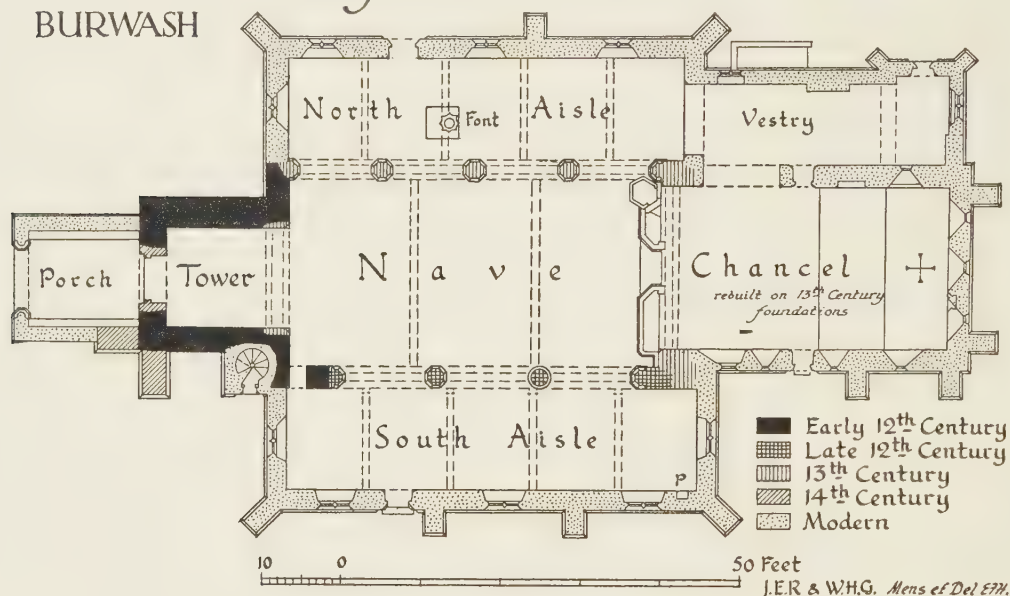
The manor of *WOODKNOLLE* (Wooknolle, Wokenolle) was held of the manor of Burwash by knight service, and the yearly rent of a pair of gilt spurs and 10s.¹ It probably originated in the virgate held in 1212 by Reynold de Wokynolle by payment of 5*d.* in the mark for scutage.² Geoffrey de Woknolle was assessed for property in Burwash in 1296,³ as was Walter de Woknolle, in 1327 and 1332;⁴ and in 1347 John de Cressingham, vicar of the parish, probably a trustee, conveyed a messuage, a mill, and 200 acres of arable land in Burwash to Walter de Woknolle and Joan his wife, with remainder to their daughter Joan and her husband William Lunsford.⁵

Woodknowle was probably included in the £20

18th century. One moiety was then said to be in the possession of William Constable, who bequeathed it to his second son William, from whom it passed to his brother John, the owner in 1776.¹³ The other moiety was held by a Mrs. Widdon or Weedon of London, from whom it passed to Mrs. Land, widow of the Rev. Dr. Land, 'late lecturer of St. Antholin's, London.'¹⁴ In 1819 one moiety was conveyed by Thomas Fry and Mary Hannah his wife to Sir Richard Owen Stone,¹⁵ who died in 1824 and was succeeded by his son Mr. W. Owen Stone, who was apparently holding the whole manor in 1835.¹⁶ In 1869 the owner was Mr. Lucas.¹⁷

The reputed manor of *MOTTINGSDEN* may have been held by the family of Motyn, of whom

PARISH CHURCH of ST. BARTHOLOMEW BURWASH



worth of land in Burwash for which John Lunsford was assessed in 1411.⁶ In 1437 the 'tenement' was settled on William and Thomasine Lunsford with remainder to their eldest son John.⁷ It is first called a manor in 1545, when it was in the possession of John Lunsford, and his son John,⁸ afterwards knighted, was holding in 1584.⁹ A family dispute with regard to the manor was settled in 1615 by an award that Sir John and Cecily his daughter should convey the estate to his eldest son Thomas, Mottingsden being apportioned to the younger son Herbert.¹⁰

Thomas Lunsford was holding Woodknoll in 1639, but then appears to have sold it to James Thynne,¹¹ and its history becomes obscure. Later in the century it appears to have passed to three heiresses, as in 1670 it was conveyed by Richard Beckford and Frances, Andrew West and Mary, and William Hills and Elizabeth, to William Turbill and Henry Cherry,¹² after which nothing is heard of it until the middle of the

John Motyn is mentioned in 1332, and Lawrence Motyn in 1407.¹⁸ In 1545 it was held by John Lunsford¹⁹ and subsequently descends with the manor of Woodknowle (q.v.). The last mention of it is in 1819.²⁰

The church of *ST. BARTHOLOMEW CHURCH* consists of chancel, north vestry, and organ-chamber, nave, aisles, west tower with shingled spire, and west porch. The material is Hastings sandstone and the roofs are tiled. An aisleless church existed on the site at the beginning of the 12th century, of which the tower remains and a small portion of the south wall of the nave at the west end. About 1190 the nave received a south aisle, and about 1250 an aisle was added on the north side and the chancel completely rebuilt on an extended scale. In the second half of the 14th century the aisles were widened and received new windows and the west porch was added and probably the north-east vestry. At a later date

¹ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 200.

² Red Bk. of Exch. 555.

³ Subsidies (Suss. Rec. Soc. x), 9.

⁴ Ibid. 218, 330.

⁵ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 20 Edw. III.

⁶ Suss. Arch. Coll. x, 145.

⁷ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 667.

⁸ Visit. of Suss. (Harl. Soc.), 30.

⁹ Recov. R. East. 36 Hen. VIII, ro. 100; ibid. Mich. 26 Eliz. ro. 96.

¹⁰ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 200.

¹¹ Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 14 Chas. I; Recov. R. Mich. 15 Chas. I, ro. 106.

¹² Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 22 Chas. II.

¹³ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 200.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 59 Geo. III.

¹⁶ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 579.

¹⁷ Suss. Arch. Coll. xxi, 131. The manor lay about 2 miles from the church,

and the manorial courts were held at a house on the north side of the village, which in 1776 was owned by Mr. Norden: Add. MS. 5680, fol. 200.

¹⁸ Subsidies (Suss. Rec. Soc. x), 330; Place-Names of Suss. ii, 463.

¹⁹ Recov. R. Sussex East. 36 Hen. VIII, ro. 100.

²⁰ Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 59 Geo. III.



BURWASH VILLAGE



BURWASH CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST: 1804
(From a drawing in the Sharpe Collection)

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

The following charities are regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners, dated 24 October 1913, whereby the Sussex Congregational Union [Incorporated] are appointed trustees:

Site of Old Chapel comprised in an indenture, dated 23 February 1809, conveying land in Burwash Street together with the meeting-house to be used as a place of worship.

The New Congregational Chapel comprised in an indenture, dated 5 January 1865, conveying land in the main street in Burwash together with the chapel as a place of worship for Congregationalists.

Elizabeth Cruttenden, by her will dated 24 June 1726, gave Crowhurst Bridge Farm at Burwash, containing approximately 18 acres, upon trust to pay the rents to the minister of the congregation of dissenters at Burwash.

The site of the old chapel and the farm were sold in about the year 1922 and the proceeds invested, producing about £26, which is paid by the trustees to the treasurer of the Congregational church.

Thomas Henry Stone, by his will proved at Lewes on 17 September 1886, gave £200 to assist in carrying on the services in the Baptist chapel at Burwash. The endowment now produces about £4 15s. A scheme of the Charity Commissioners, dated 14 February 1919, appoints the trustees of the Providence Baptist Chapel as trustees of the charity.

Land held for Roman Catholic purposes. By an indenture dated 22 May 1896 a piece of land in Burwash containing about 20 poles was conveyed to the

Roman Catholic Bishop of Southwark and four others upon trust to be used as a site for a school. The land was authorized to be sold by an order of the Charity Commissioners, dated 18 September 1928, which directed that the purchase money should be held and applied in accordance with the existing trusts.

The following charities were founded by Angela Louisa Anderson-Morshead by her will proved in London on 30 June 1931:

Louisa Combs Memorial Fund. Her trustees were directed to purchase in the names of the rector and two others a sufficient sum of stock to produce at the time of investment £25 per annum, to be used for the purposes of the Burwash Nursing Association or for providing a nurse for the parish. The endowment produces about £17 10s. per annum. The trustees are the rector and churchwardens. She also gave £50 to the rector and churchwardens upon trust to apply the income in keeping the churchyard in repair and particularly the grave and headstone of Mrs. Louisa Combs and subject thereto to apply the income for general charitable purposes in the parish. She further gave to her trustees £1,000 upon trust to endow a cot or bed at some hospital in or around Burwash to be named after the late James Philcox, for the benefit of the poor.

Lucy Elizabeth Elliott, by her will proved in London on 30 December 1931, gave £80 to the rector and churchwardens upon trust to apply the interest in keeping the churchyard and particularly the family vault in good repair. The endowment now produces about £3 14s. per annum.

HEATHFIELD

Hadfeld (xii cent.); Hethefeld, Heffeuð (xiii cent.); Heffeld (xiv cent.).

Heathfield parish contains 8,032 acres of land, of which 10 are covered with water. A large number of houses have been built in recent years near the station 2 miles west of the village, and the population has risen from 1,801 in 1831 to 3,659 in 1931. The road from Lewes to Battle divides north of Heathfield Park forming a fork, one branch of which passes north-east to Burwash and Etchingham and the other, on which the village is situated, south-east to Battle. The River Dudwell, one of the tributaries of the Rother, rises north of Heathfield Park and flows in an easterly direction through the parish to Burwash and Etchingham. One of the sources of the Cuckmere is also near Heathfield Park, from whence the stream flows south.

Heathfield Park, the property of James Groves, esq., stands on the east side of the park, and on the west side is the Gibraltar Tower erected by Francis Newbery, son of John Newbery the publisher, to the memory of Lord Heathfield, from whom he purchased the estate in 1711. It is described in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1794 as 'a stone building, fifty-seven feet high, the bottom an octagon with recesses, situated on an eminence commanding a view of the whole country round. ... Over the door is inscribed *Calpes Defensori* the letters of which were cast from the brass of one of the floating batteries taken from the Spaniards in that memorable siege.'¹

Manor Farm, east of the church, is built of local stone ashlar, brick, and plastered timber-framing, and is L-shape on plan. The principal wing, lying east and west,

is of 15th-century date, and had a one-storied, central hall, with the kitchen wing at the western, and solar at the eastern, end. The north-east wing is also of medieval origin, and appears to have been of one story. The central chimney-stack and first floor of the south wing were inserted c. 1580, when also the original kitchen wing west of it was rebuilt. In more recent years various additions have been made, the overhang of the east wall has been underbuilt, and much of the walling refaced with brick and tile.

The interior has stop-chamfered ceiling beams and exposed joists. Along the east end of the hall is a moulded beam of 15th-century date. The west fireplace in the central stack has a moulded four-centred head and continuous jambs on to plain stops. Within is a 16th-century fire-back with the Tudor arms and supporters, together with the portcullis and rose badges. The doorway to the solar has a four-centred head. The lower part of the chimney-stack in this wing is of ashlar and probably medieval. The ground floor has a wide fireplace with ashlar jambs and restored head. The first-floor has a 16th-century fireplace with a four-centred chamfered head of wood. The original staircase was towards the south-west of the solar and some of the framing is visible in the ceiling. The hall retains part of its 15th-century roof of two bays. Just east of the chimney-stack is a large cambered tie-beam, with curved braces forming a high four-centred arch, and supporting a large octagonal king-post with curved four-way braces. The tie-beam is taken by heavy, shaped wall-posts. The truss at the east end of the hall has a king-post with three-way curved braces, and cen-

¹ *Gent. Mag.* lxiv, 1163.

tral purlin. The roof to the north wing has been for the most part reconstructed, but has two early cambered tie-beams, and smoke-blackened rafters.

The Barn, a few yards west of the house, now shortened to five bays, is of 15th-century origin. The walls are of braced timber-framing, weather-boarded externally; the roof-trusses have cambered tie-beams with curved braces to the shaped wall-posts; and the king-posts have short struts to the tie-beams, and two-way curved braces to the central purlin. The south side of the barn has a 17th-century one-storied addition, with a lean-to roof.

Broomham is a rectangular building of early-17th-century date, with an 18th-century addition along the whole of the north side. The central chimney-stack is of unusual size and contains large recesses for smoking bacon. The shafts are carried up above the roof in two separate groups. The interior has stop-chamfered ceiling-beams and exposed framing on both floors, and incorporates heavy, shaped wall-posts, and timbers from an earlier building, probably medieval in date.

'Balcocks', on the south side of Vines Cross, is built of plastered timber-framing, tile-faced, and 18th-century brick. The central portion of the house, grouped round the main chimney-stack, inserted c. 1600, originally formed the one-storied hall of an early 15th-century house. The two-storied solar wing at the southern end was rebuilt in the 16th century. The kitchen wing, on the north, was entirely rebuilt later. The interior has exposed timber-framing, with stop-chamfered ceiling-beams and joists and studding, and, on the first floor, ogee-shaped braces to the vertical posts. The southern end of the original hall is marked by a moulded beam between the ground and first floors of the solar wing. The fire-place in this wing has jambs of ashlar, and the ground-floor room is lined with moulded panelling of c. 1625. The hall roof is in two 14-ft. bays, with a central cambered tie-beam, with a large curved brace at the south end which formed part of a high four-centred arch, but the corresponding brace was cut away when the chimney-stack was inserted. The king-post with four-way curved braces supports a central purlin and collars. The end king-posts to the roof have three-way braces, and curved struts to the tie-beams. All the original timbers to the roof are heavily smoke-blackened.

Sapperton Manor Farm is of early-17th-century origin, timber-framed but refaced with brick and tile, and with later additions. Internally the framing, with diagonal braces and large shaped wall-posts, is visible, and the roof is of queen-post construction.

Tottingworth Park is the residence of Mrs. Logie-Pirie.

Most of the parish is woodland and permanent grass. Poultry farming is extensively carried on. The soil is loam, and the subsoil clay and sand. Natural gas has been discovered in the parish and has been used for lighting the station.

The ironworks formerly carried on in Heathfield by the Fuller family used to provide constant employment for half the population of the parish.¹ The

cannon made in Heathfield were said to be of better quality and capable of fetching a higher price than any others made in the kingdom. The ponds for the ironworks are said to have formed a continuous chain 3 miles in length.

Punnetts Town, 2 miles east of the village and 500 ft. above the level of the sea, has an Independent chapel.

Maynard's Green, 1½ miles south-west, is another hamlet in the parish. Cade Street,² half a mile north, has a monument called 'Jack Cade's Stone' to mark the spot where he is said (erroneously) to have been slain after the rising of 1450.

The manor of *HEATHFIELD* belonged to the see of Chichester, but when or by whom it was granted there is no

evidence to show. Until the middle of the 14th century it was a member of Bishopstone manor,³ and it is probable that when that manor was given to the see of Selsey in Saxon times, Heathfield was attached to it as a 'denne', or woodland for pasturing swine. It was stated in 1288 that the bishop lately deceased had view of frankpledge, amendment of the assize of bread and ale, gallows, pillory, tumbrell, and free warren in Heathfield.⁴ In 1315 Bishop John received the right to hold a weekly market on Thursday and an annual fair on the vigil, day, and morrow of the Translation of Blessed Richard the Confessor (16 June) at Heathfield in his manor of Bishopstone.⁵ This fair was still held on the equivalent date (27 June) in 1792 but had ceased before 1888.⁶ A second fair, of unknown origin, held on 14 April,⁷ still continues.

Heathfield remained in the possession of the see of Chichester until it was taken into the hands of Queen Elizabeth under the Act of 1559 empowering the Crown to take the lands of vacant bishoprics,⁸ after which it follows the descent of Bexhill (q.v.).⁹

The reputed manor of *BROMHAM* probably had its origin in the land held by Geoffrey de Bromham in the parish in 1296,¹⁰ and in the messuage and land which Robert de Bromham and William his son held there in 1345.¹¹ The first reference to this estate as a manor appears to be in 1538, when John Stapeley and Joan held it.¹² In 1560 the Stapeleys sold it to Ninian Warde,¹³ in whose family it remained for nearly a century. Henry Warde, who held it in 1606, died seised of it in 1634, leaving a son Henry.¹⁴ In 1640 Eleanor Warde widow, Henry Warde, and Richard Bishopp and Jane conveyed Bromham to William Bishopp,¹⁵ after which record of it is lost.

Part of *RUNTINGTON* [Runtinton (xiii and xiv cent.)] was given in about 1140 to Lewes Priory by Alvred de Bendeville and Sybil his wife¹⁶ and subsequently confirmed to the monks by Alvred's daughter Sara and her husband Stephen de Danmartin.¹⁷ It does



SEE OF CHICHESTER.
Azure our Lord in majesty or with a sword proceeding from his mouth.

¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* ii, 210; lxvii, 25 seqq.; Straker, *Wealden Iron*, 374-6.

² Found as 'Kattestrete' and 'Cartstrete' from the 13th century onwards: *Suss. Place-Names* (Engl. P.-N. Soc.).

³ *Customs of Manors of Bp. of Chichester* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xxxi), 96-8.

⁴ Assize R. 924, m. 45.

⁵ *Cal. Chart. R.* iii, 306.

⁶ *Roy. Com. Market Rights*, 209.

⁷ *Ibid.* Local folk-lore said that the first cuckoo of the season was let out of an old woman's basket at this fair: *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiii, 210.

⁸ *Stats. at Large*, vi, 149.

⁹ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 209.

¹⁰ *Subsidies* (Suss. Rec. Soc. x), 10.

¹¹ Feet of F. Suss. 18 Edw. III; *ibid.*

Mich. 19 Edw. III.

¹² *Ibid.* Hil. 29 Hen. VIII.

¹³ *Ibid.* East. 2 Eliz.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* 4 Jas. I; *Inq.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xiv), no. 1053.

¹⁵ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 16 Chas. I.

¹⁶ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxviii, 73.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* 75, 119.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

not, however, appear among the later possessions of the priory, and Richard de Runtinton, who was living in 1253,¹ had a son and heir John, who in 1312 recovered the 'tenement of Runtinton' from Walter Breggel, whose father Adam had bought it from the heirs of Maud de Runtinton.² John and Margery his wife evidently settled it upon their son Richard.³ Probably it was at this time part of Saperton manor (q.v.) and became divided, part of it appearing for the first time as a manor in 1554, when John Parker settled it on himself and his son Thomas for life with remainders to his other children; he died about 1558.⁴ In 1588 his second son Nicholas Parker conveyed it to Thomas Diggons,⁵ who sold it in 1605 to Richard Baker.⁶ The latter parted with it in turn in 1635 to John Holman,⁷ who died in 1640, bequeathing the property to John son of Thomas Snatt. The manor was then held of Sir Thomas Pelham as of his manor of Heringalls.⁸ Thomas Snatt was still holding Runtinton in 1663,⁹ after which records of it cease.

The first mention of the manor of *SAPERTON* is in 1273, when Andrew Peverel died seised of 'certain land called Saperton in Heathfield' then held of William Heringaud by a rent of 5s. yearly.¹⁰ From the Heringaud family the overlordship appears to have passed to the Prior of Lewes and the family of Poynings jointly.¹¹ Andrew Peverel's son Thomas held the estate till his death in 1306.¹² His grandson Sir Andrew died in 1375 leaving as co-heirs two grandnephews Edmund Fitzherbert and John Brocas, grandsons respectively of Lucy and Alice, sisters of Sir Andrew.¹³ Katherine his widow held the manor in dower till her death in the following year.¹⁴ Saperton was then allotted to John son of Sir Oliver Brocas, at whose death about 1379¹⁵ it passed to Sir Edmund Fitzherbert, the other co-heir. Dying in 1387,¹⁶ he left as heir a sister Alice, then widow of Sir Thomas West. She died in 1395,¹⁷ and her son Sir Thomas died in 1405, leaving two sons: Thomas, who died in 1416 without issue, and Reynold West, afterwards Lord de la Warr, who died possessed of the manor in 1451.¹⁸ It was presumably sold by Reynold's son Richard as it was not found among his possessions on his death in 1475.¹⁹ The next recorded owner is Thomas Allfray, who was holding the manor of Saperton in 1578, and died seised of it in 1590.²⁰ His son Thomas was succeeded before 1611 by Richard Allfray, his son, who in 1613 conveyed the manor to William Fagg.²¹ Probably it was the reversion which was sold, as Richard Allfray was still in possession in 1633,²² but John Fagg died seised of the manor in 1645.²³ His son John was in possession in 1651,²⁴ and it evidently descended



FAGG. *Gules two bends vair.*

in that family for the next hundred years. In 1766 a number of heirs, including Margaret and Christian Fagg, spinsters, conveyed the property to Henry Campion and Robert Wood,²⁵ after which there is no further record of it.

A park of 150 acres was part of the Saperton estate in 1387²⁶ and no doubt formed the nucleus of the present Heathfield Park.

TOTTINGWORTH is mentioned in 1310 as a tenement held of the fee of Basok by the service of a quarter of a knight's fee.²⁷ The holder was then Stephen de Burghersh, lord of the manor of Burghurst, and with that manor (q.v.) Tottingworth descended to Thomas Hoo.²⁸ Subsequently its history is lost until 1588, when it reappears in the possession of John Elphick, as an estate of 300 acres.²⁹ He mortgaged it in 1595, and it was subsequently conveyed in 1610 to John Fuller, who in the same year sold it to Thomas Dawson. Thomasin Dawson, executrix of the latter, sold Tottingworth to Thomas Taylor in 1616 and it remained in his family until 1676-7, when John Taylor sold it to Samuel White for £850. From 1707 to 1716 it was held by Richard Durrant and his son and daughters.³⁰

The church of *ALL SAINTS* consists *CHURCH* of chancel, south chapel, clerestoried nave, north and south aisles and porches, and west tower with shingled spire of local type. The material is Hastings sandstone, and the roofs are tiled. The fabric is of 13th-century origin and it has retained its plan without additions. In the 14th century a number of windows were inserted and the clerestory added. During the second half of the 19th century the church underwent a drastic restoration. The south chapel was rebuilt in 1861, the south aisle and porch in 1869, and the north porch and aisle about the same time. Most of the windows have been renewed.

The chancel has diagonal buttresses with two set-offs at the east end and the three-light east window has modern geometrical tracery. In the north wall there is a two-light window with modern tracery. There is a 14th-century piscina in the south wall and to the west of it a large squint, apparently cut in the 16th century through the back of the original sedilia. The chancel opens to the chapel by a two-centred arch of two orders with moulded capitals and chamfered bases. In the east wall of the chapel are coupled lancets, and a quatrefoil opening above, all modern. In the south wall are two 13th-century lancets and two modern buttresses. The chancel-arch is of two orders with moulded capitals and bases to the semi-octagonal responds.

The nave has arcades of four bays with arches of two orders and octagonal columns with moulded capitals and bases. The clerestory consists of three quatrefoils on either side of 14th-century origin, but much renewed. All the windows of the aisles are modern, but they are probably a restoration of what formerly

¹ *Cal. Close*, 1251-3, p. 509.

² *Add. Chart.* 30056.

³ *Ibid.* 30058.

⁴ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cxiv, 25.

⁵ *Recov. R. Hil.* 30 Eliz. ro. 9.

⁶ *Feet of F. Suss. Trin.* 3 Jas. I.

⁷ *Ibid. Trin.* 11 Chas. I.

⁸ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), dcvii, 77. Holman is here said to have bought the property from Richard Snatt, the father of Thomas.

⁹ *Recov. R. Mich.* 16 Chas. II, ro. 62.

¹⁰ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 2 Edw. I, no. 15.

¹¹ *Ibid.* 10 Rich. II, no. 18; cf. *ibid.* 4

Hen. V, no. 28.

¹² *Ibid.* 34 Edw. I, no. 39.

¹³ *Ibid.* 49 Edw. III (1st nos.), pt. 2, no. 26.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* 51 Edw. III (1st nos.), no. 22.

¹⁵ *Cal. Fine R.* ix, 138.

¹⁶ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 10 Ric. II, no. 18.

¹⁷ *Comber, Suss. Genealogies, Lewes*, 304.

¹⁸ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 29 Hen. VI, no. 21.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* 2 Ric. II, no. 93.

²⁰ *Recov. R. East.* 20 Eliz. ro. 741; *Inqs.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xiv), 19. It is hereafter called Saberton or Saperton 'alias

Runtinton', but was distinct from the manor of Runtinton already recorded.

²¹ *Feet of F. Suss. East.* 9 Jas. I; *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xx), 386; Berry, *Suss. Gen.* 245.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), dcclxxvii, 95.

²⁴ *Recov. R. Hil.* 1651, ro. 75.

²⁵ *Feet of F. Suss. Mich.* 33 Geo. II.

²⁶ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 10 Ric. II, no. 18.

²⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, 207.

²⁸ *Add. MS.* 5680, fol. 379.

²⁹ *Cal. Drake Coll.* (Suss. Arch. Trust, Lewes), D. 72.

³⁰ *Ibid.* 83, 116, 119, 397, &c.

existed. The side windows are of two lights with acutely pointed trefoiled heads. The east and west windows of the north aisle and the west window of the south aisle are also of two lights. All the aisle windows are in the style of the 14th century. The inner south doorway is 14th-century work with hood and continuous mouldings. The south aisle opens to the chapel by a pointed arch springing from square impost, of the early 13th century; an inner order, springing from plain corbels, was added, probably in the 14th century. The aisle buttresses are all modern. The tower has suffered less from restoration than the rest of the fabric. It is of two stages, with diagonal buttresses with three set-offs on the west. The blocked west doorway, of the 14th century, with a hood-mould terminating in much

1897; a paten on a foot of silver, 1903; a paten on three feet of silver, 1772; a flagon of silver, 1673; an alms-dish of silver, 1753.³

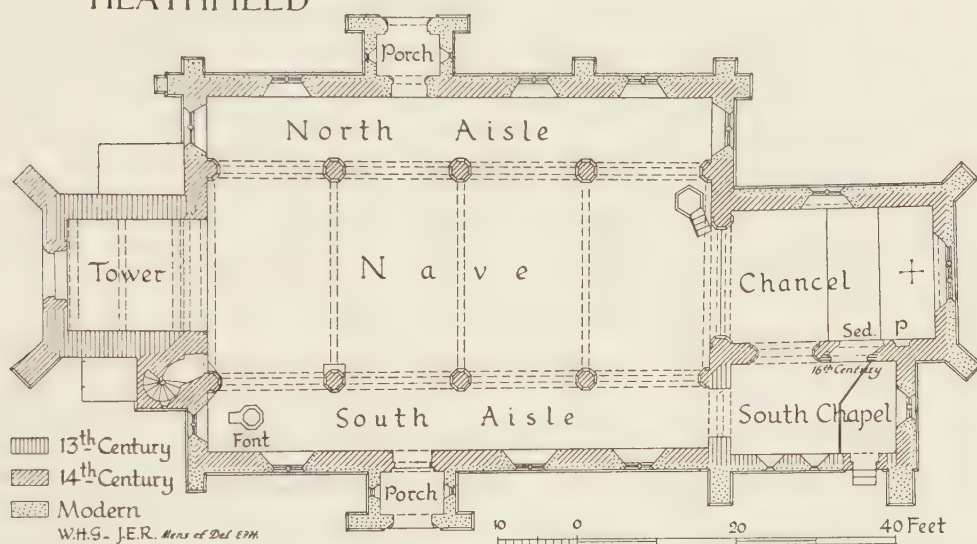
The registers begin in 1581.

A prebend of Heathfield was *ADVOWSON* founded in the cathedral church of

Chichester probably about the end of the 13th century, the chief endowment of which consisted of the tithes and advowsons of the vicarages of Heathfield and Selmeston.⁴ In addition the prebendary had a messuage and lands and rent in the parish worth 7 marks.⁵ In 1291 the prebend was worth £26 13s. 4d., the vicarage being valued at £8.⁶ In the valuation of 1535 the respective values were £9 16s. 8d. and £10.⁷

Manorial rights were attached to the rectory of

PARISH CHURCH of ALL SAINTS HEATHFIELD



defaced human heads, has continuous mouldings and the contemporary west window has three trefoil-headed lights. There are plain lancets on the north, south,¹ and west of both stages and a rectangular stair turret at the south-east angle, the entrance to which is by a plain doorway with segmental head in the south-west corner of the nave. The tower opens to the nave by an arch of two orders dying into the responds.

All the roofs are modern. There is a 17th-century communion table and an 18th-century wooden pulpit on a modern stone base. There are four hatchments in the nave, and an alms-box hollowed out of a tree trunk, probably 17th century. On the west wall of the nave are the Royal Arms of George III after 1801, carved in wood and coloured. The font is modern.

The tower contains eight bells, six of which were recast and the other two added in 1920 by Mears and Stainbank. Round the shoulder of the tenor is the inscription 'In Multis Annis Resonet Campana Johannis'.²

The plate consists of a communion cup of silver with imperfect hall marks, but possibly for 1565; a paten cover engraved on the foot '1572'; a chalice of silver,

Heathfield and in 1651 the Commissioners for the sale of bishops' lands sold 'the manor of the rectory of Heathfield' to Thomas Evershed, citizen and merchant taylor of London, together with 'the capital messuage and mansion house called the parsonage house or manor house of Heathfield with the site belonging and various parcels of land, streams, fishing, fowling, and courts'.⁸ Eight years later Thomas Evershed with others, perhaps his sisters, conveyed the rectorial manor to Richard Fuller.⁹ The advowson seems to have been restored to the prebend, although presentation was occasionally made by other persons, presumably lessees.¹⁰ It is now a vicarage in the gift of the Bishop of Chichester.

There is a chapel-of-ease at the hamlet of Maynards Green, built in 1863, and the church of St. Richard, Alexander Road, was erected, also as a chapel-of-ease, in 1912 to 1915.

Lady Sophia Blunt, by her will *CHARITIES* proved in London on 2 September 1862, gave £400 upon trust to apply the interest for the repair of the tablets in the parish church commemorative of Sir Charles Richard Blunt and Sir Walter Blunt, any surplus income above £50

¹ In the jamb of the south lancet on the first stage is a stone which has been alleged to bear the date 1445: *Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc.* ix. 433. It has every appearance of being modern, and the date is possibly intended for 1809.

² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 212.

³ *Ibid.* lv, 211.

⁴ Dallaway, *Hist. of Sussex*, 111.

⁵ *Inq. Non.* (Rec. Com.), 356.

⁶ *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 137.

⁷ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), 294.

⁸ *Close R.* 1651, pt. 1-3.

⁹ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix), 209.

¹⁰ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.); Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 576.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

to be applied for the benefit of the poor. Unapplied income has been invested and the endowment produces about £13 per annum.

Keith Mortimer, by a declaration of trust dated 30 November 1872, gave £200 Consolidated 3 per cent. Annuities to the vicar and churchwardens for providing clothes, bedding, or other articles in kind for members of the Heathfield Friendly Society. The endowment now produces £5 5s. per annum. By the same declaration of trust he also gave £800 Consolidated 3 per cent. Annuities, now producing £20, for similar purposes for necessitous inhabitants of Heathfield.

George William Radcliffe Purchase, by his will

proved in London on 3 October 1893, gave £90 to the vicar and overseers upon trust to apply the income annually on the 7 November each year in gifts of 5s. to nine working people residing in Tower Street, Heathfield. The charity is administered by the vicar and two persons appointed by the parish council.

The Heathfield Village Institute. By an indenture dated 22 September 1921, made between Dame Grace Lister and John Gorrington Barrow and seven others, a piece of land on the high road to Punnett's Town, together with the building on it, was conveyed upon trust to be used as a reading or recreation room for residents of the parish.

WARBLETON

Worborgetone (xi cent.); Warblington (xiii-xiv cent.).

Warbleton is a parish for the most part situated on high ground about 7 miles north of Hailsham, containing, with the hamlets of Bodle Street Green, Rushlake Green, and Three Cups Corner, 6,226 acres.

The main road from Lewes to Battle crosses the extreme north of the parish to Three Cups Corner, where it divides, forming a fork one branch of which passes south-east to Hastings while the other takes a southerly direction to Hailsham. The slope of the land is from north to south, the height varying from 200 ft. in the south of the parish to 500 ft. in the extreme north. More than one-sixth of the parish consists of woodland, which is well distributed throughout the district, the largest tracts being Hoad's Wood and High Wood.¹

The Priory Farm incorporates the remains of the Augustinian priory.² The farm-house itself has an irregular plan, of several dates, but in the main comprising a north-west and a south-east wing. The eastern half of the former wing is of the early 15th century, and was possibly the Prior's Lodging. Some part of the western half of this wing is also of medieval origin, but very much altered; and the northern end is entirely modern. The south-east wing has since its erection in about 1600 formed the main body of the house. The walls of this wing are of coursed ashlar with a chamfered plinth. The south doorway has a two-centred chamfered head and continuous jambs; it was only inserted in the 19th century,³ but may be a re-used doorway of 15th-century origin. There are a number of contemporary mullioned windows, and in the north wall is a blocked doorway. The east side of the north-west wing formerly had an overhanging upper floor, now underbuilt in mid-17th-century brick. The upper floor has fairly closely set vertical studding of 15th-century date. A 17th-century porch has been added at the north end of this wing. The west wall is partly of ashlar, the upper wall being tile-faced plastered timber-framing. The south wall has vertical studding, faced with tile. The west wall to the early, eastern, half of the north-west wing has an overhanging upper floor, carried on two large curved brackets. The interior has exposed ceiling-beams; some of those in the south-east wing are formed out of unsquared tree-trunks. The roof to this wing is of queen-post construction, many of the timbers used being from an older roof. The staircase in the adjoining wing is of early-17th-century date, and has some turned

and moulded balusters. The roof to the north-west wing is in four bays, and has king-posts with four-way braces, and curved struts to the tie-beams.

A few yards east of the house is a two-storied building, partly barn and partly oast-house. Its north, east, and west walls incorporate early-15th-century work in rough ashlar, probably part of the cellarer's range of the conventual building. It is rectangular on plan (21 ft. × 43 ft.) and occupied the western side of the small cloister. A large part of the south-eastern quarter has been pulled down and an 18th-century oast-house inserted. The northern half of the east wall is of early date. The top of the wall has a plain square corbel table. The windows are of 17th-century or later date.

Towards the north end of the west wall, above a blocked 18th-century doorway, are parts of the jambs of an early window. Farther south is a blocked one-light window of 15th-century date, with square chamfered head. The 15th-century doorway beyond has a two-centred, moulded head and continuous jambs. Very little of the south wall still remains. Almost in line with it, and to the east, is a portion of the north wall to the Frater range, forming the south boundary to the cloister. Of the church, to the north, the only portions visible are the footings of the walls to the quire (20 ft. × 52 ft.).⁴

Cralle, about 1½ miles south of the church, is a building of brick and local stone ashlar, roofed with tile. It is on a medieval site, but now shows no work prior to the early half of the 16th century and this is but fragmentary. The north-eastern block, with a large chimney-stack as its central feature, was of this date, but largely reconstructed later. In 1724 the main staircase, in the centre of the house, was built, and the large western range, now the principal wing, refronted in brick, Flemish bond, with dressings of rubbed brick. The north wall has an ashlar plinth, and a two-light window, of 16th-century date, to the basement. The north-west room and entrance hall have moulded 17th-century panelling, and there is also a certain amount of re-used panelling of varying 16th- and 17th-century origin, some of the earlier work carved with arabesques and classical heads in relief. The staircase is dated 1724 and has turned and moulded balusters; it is in two flights, and the containing walls have a panelled dado. The east wing has a large open fire-place of ashlar, probably of the 16th century. Some worked stones from another site have been built into it.

¹ Probably Iwood Park, mentioned in the 16th century as containing 100 acres: *Chanc. Proc.* (Ser. 2), bdle. 155, no. 25.

² For the history of the New Priory, removed hither from Hastings in 1413, see *V.C.H. Sussex*, ii, 76-7.

³ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 298.

⁴ A rough plan of the church is given in *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 295.



HEATHFIELD.

HEATHFIELD CHURCH, FROM THE NORTH-WEST, 1773
 (From a drawing in the Burrell Collections)



WARBLETON.

WARBLETON CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST, 1782
 (From a drawing in the Burrell Collections)

The Chantry, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south-east of the church, is built of plastered timber-framing and brick. The western end of the house incorporates part of a 15th-century building which formerly stretched farther south. Late in the 16th century the eastern two-thirds of the house was added or rebuilt, and an extension made on the north. The south front has been refaced with brick, and the early overhanging first floor to the western end underbuilt. The west wall has some exposed vertical studding. The chimney-stack on this side is a late-16th-century addition, and has 'crow-stepped' weathering, as has the easternmost stack on the north side. Much of the internal timber-framing is exposed, and some of the walls have the early vertical studding. The south-west fire-place is of stone and has a four-centred opening in a square head. The doorway to the easternmost room has the original moulded, square-headed frame with continuous jambs and shaped stops. The southern end of the south wall incorporates a medieval roof-truss, with a cambered tie-beam carried on shaped wall-posts, and having curved braces forming a four-centred arch. The original north wall has a cambered tie-beam with a king-post with three-way curved braces. The 16th-century addition has a queen-post roof with large, shaped wall-posts, and side purlins with curved braces, the latter probably re-used.

Summertree Farm, about 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles south-east of the church, is built of plastered timber-framing and brick. The north range was originally a 15th-century one-storied hall, with a screens passage and kitchen at the west end, and a small solar at the eastern end of the hall. Both kitchen and solar were two-storied. In the early 17th century a large chimney-stack was built immediately east of the screens passage, and a first floor inserted in the hall. At the same time an additional wing was built opening out from the south end of the screens passage, giving the house an L-shaped plan. Other additions were made subsequently.

The entrance in the north wall into the screens passage is a rebuilt doorway of early-17th-century date, with a four-centred hollow chamfered head with 'chip' carving of conventional design. The original partitions to the screens passage have been removed, but the slotted ceiling-beam which took the partition on the west side is still in position. An early-17th-century staircase has been built into the southern end of the original kitchen. Both kitchen and screens have the early flat joists, and the kitchen has exposed timber-framing of 15th- and 17th-century dates. The eastern end of the hall is marked by a moulded and embattled ceiling-beam, in which was formerly a wooden partition to the two-storied solar wing. The latter has heavy ceiling-joists, and against the east wall is an early partition of panelling formed by closely set vertical posts with hollow-chamfered edges, alternating with plain boards. The first floor has stop-chamfered ceiling-beams, and exposed timber-framing, with curved braces to some of the vertical posts. The roof is in two bays with cambered tie-beams carried on heavy, shaped

wall-posts. The centre tie-beam has a king-post with four-way braces, and one of the end king-posts, with three-way braces, is still *in situ*.

Just west of the house is an early-17th-century barn, of timber-framing, partly weather-boarded and partly plastered. The roof is in three bays, and is of queen-post construction, with tie-beams carried on shaped wall-posts with braces to the tie-beams and wall-plates.

Stone House, at Rushlake Green, has now a modified T-shaped plan, the earliest portion of which is the brick-fronted northern half of the east wing, built in the early 16th century. About one hundred years later the southern half of the same wing was added, slightly overlapping the original building at the eastern end. About 1750 a cross wing was added at the west end, giving the house a new main frontage. This west front



WARBLETON: STONE HOUSE

has a central doorway flanked by three-quarter columns supporting an entablature and pediment. The south wall of the east wing is in five bays, marked by gables. The easternmost bay is narrower than the others, and was refaced with ashlar about 1670. The three next bays are of coursed ashlar, and have a chamfered plinth, and a moulded string between each of the floors. The doorway, in the centre bay, has a four-centred chamfered head and continuous jambs. The ground- and first-floor windows are of three or four lights in square heads. The gables have moulded coping with shaped finials. The fifth and westernmost bay has been refaced in 18th-century brick. The west wing has no internal features of interest except that the hall windows have some good 16th-century armorial glass, brought from Glassonbury, Kent, the seat of the Roberts family, who also held Stone House as a dower-house.

The two rooms to the north have 17th-century panelling; the larger of the two also has a moulded cornice and dado. The fire-place has two 17th-century fire-backs: (1) with three shields of arms, each with France (modern) and England, quarterly; (2) with a shield with—Quarterly (1) and (3) A castle between three keys (for Baker); (2) and (4) A cheveron between three leopards' faces. The staircase in this wing is of c. 1620. It has six short flights, and has large turned and moulded balusters, and square newels with ball terminals and shaped pendants. The containing walls have exposed timber-framing. Several rooms on both floors have stop-chamfered ceiling-beams.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

Little Bucksteep is a house of plastered timber-framing, built c. 1630 but refaced in brick about a century later. The interior has exposed timber-framing and ceiling-beams and late-17th-century panelling and doors. Above five of the doorways on the first floor are framed wood panels (c. 1700) painted with moral verses. There is a good early-18th-century staircase; and in the windows of the east wall is a jumble of German and Flemish painted glass, of dates ranging from the 16th to the 18th century.

Close to the church is the War-Bill-in-Tun Inn, a building of early-17th-century origin, but much modified at later dates. The chimney-stack on the east side has grouped shafts with capping and base of projecting brick courses, and contains the usual wide fire-place. Of the original roof only the cambered tie-beams and shaped wall-posts remain.

Corn and hops are grown, but more than half the parish consists of pasture land. Chicken-rearing is an important industry.

The iron industry flourished in Warbleton in the 16th century, the chief works being Cralle furnace and forge, belonging to the Cheney family, and another owned by Richard Woodman, who was burnt at Lewes as a Protestant in 1557.¹ In one of his examinations before the bishop he pleads, 'Let me go home I pray you to my wife and children . . . and other poore folk that I would set aworke. . . . I have set aworke a hundred persons ere this all the year together.'²

Near Beeston's Farm in the extreme south-west of the parish was a steel forge the site of which may still be seen, the name surviving in Steel Forge Wood.

There is also 'Furnace Field' in Rushlake Green, which is a hamlet 1½ miles east of the church and contains a Baptist chapel.

Bodle Street is an ecclesiastical parish formed in 1855 out of the civil parishes of Warbleton, Herstmonceux, Wartling, and Dallington. The church of St. John was rebuilt in flint and stone after its destruction by fire in 1922. There is also a Baptist chapel.

The manor of **WARBLETON** had **MANORS** been held by the Countess Goda, sister of Edward the Confessor in Saxon times, and in 1086 it was in the hands of Wibert.³ It was held of the honour of Hastings by a castle-guard rent of 7s. 6d.,⁴ and the overlordship followed the descent of the rape (q.v.).

Wibert also held the manor of Herst(monceux) (q.v.), and these two manors descended to his son William and the latter's heir Reynold de Ansevell.⁵ The two manors were held as 5 fees in 1166, no tenant being named.⁶ By 1212 the holding had been divided, Waleran de Monceux and William de Warbleton each holding 2½ fees.⁷ Apparently Waleran's mother Idonea de Herste and William's wife (or mother) were

collateral coheirs of Juliana wife of William Fitz-Audelin.⁸ By 1242 William had been succeeded by his son Thomas,⁹ whose heir Thomas son of (his brother?) William¹⁰ died seized of the manor in 1317,¹¹ when it was assigned to his widow Eleanor.¹² John son of Thomas died in 1332, his eldest son John being then 15 years old.¹³ This John took part in the French wars of Edward III and was present at the siege of Calais.¹⁴ He died in February 1350, when he was holding the manor jointly with his wife Alice, on whom it was



WARBLETON. Lozengy or and azure.

settled for life with reversion to their son John.¹⁵ Although not actually holding the manor, as he predeceased his mother, John de Warbleton received a grant of free warren in his demesne lands there in 1368.¹⁶ Alice, who had subsequently married Walter de Burton, goldsmith of London,¹⁷ died in 1384, having survived both her son John and her grandson Thomas, her heir being William son of Thomas, then aged 2 years.¹⁸ Katherine widow of John held the manor in dower until her death in 1403,¹⁹ and two years later it was settled on William Warbleton and Juliana his wife.²⁰ William died in 1469, aged 86,²¹ and the manor was then held by his second wife Margery Hannys, widow of Sir Peter Besyll. On her death without issue in 1483 the manor passed by a previous settlement to William Puttenham²² son of Henry son of Margaret daughter of John and Katherine Warbleton.²³ In 1533 Sir George Puttenham son of William died seized of the manor, leaving a son Robert.²⁴ Richard younger son of Robert sold the manor in 1557 to William Lord Windsor, who conveyed it in 1563 to Thomas Parker,²⁵ from whose son Nicholas it was purchased in 1586 by Herbert Pelham.²⁶ He in turn sold it before 1598 to Thomas Stollion, who conveyed it before 1616 to Henry Smith.²⁷ In addition to the manor the sale included 'the manor farm, the Chantrey farm, and the great and little woods amounting to £160'.²⁸ The Stollion family, however, challenged the right of sale, and the dispute was not finally settled until 1639-42, when the grandson of the original grantee released his right in the manor to Smith's trustees on condition of receiving a lease of the manor for ninety-nine years at a rent of £160.²⁹ The trustees of Smith's Charity are still the owners of the property.

In 1717 they granted a lease of the manor to Sir John Lade and in 1764 to John Earl of Ashburnham,³⁰ whose descendant Lady Catherine Ashburnham holds one to-day.

Mention is made of a watermill in Warbleton as early as 1317, when it was valued at 6s. 8d.³¹ On John

¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xii, 11; *ibid.* ii, 219.
² *Ibid.* ii, 186; Straker, *Wealden Iron*, 359-61, 377-80.

³ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 369, 400.
⁴ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 13 Edw. III (2nd nos.), no. 57.

⁵ Farrer, *Honors and Knights' Fees*, iii, 376.
⁶ *Red Bk. of Exch.* i, 203.

⁷ *Ibid.* ii, 554.

⁸ Farrer, *loc. cit.* Round, *The King's Serjeants*, 92-6, where William's name is erroneously said to be taken from Warblington in Hants. Juliana was daughter of Robert Doisel.

⁹ *Bk. of Fees*, 692.

¹⁰ *V.C.H. Hants*, iv, 104.

¹¹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, 42.

¹² *Cal. Close*, 1313-18, p. 400.

¹³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vii, 474.

¹⁴ *Add. MS.* 5680, fol. 420.

¹⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 657.

¹⁶ *Cal. Chart. R.* v, 211.

¹⁷ *Assize R.* 941, m. 2d, 29.

¹⁸ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 8 Ric. II, no. 40.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* 5 Hen. IV, no. 15. She had married Sir John de la Hay: *V.C.H. Hants*, iv, 105. Cf. *Cal. Pat.* 1452-64, p. 363.

²⁰ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 7 Hen. IV.

²¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxxvii, 38.

²² *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 1 Ric. III, no. 39.

²³ *V.C.H. Hants*, iv, 105.

²⁴ *Ibid.* (Ser. 2), lxxvii, 109.

²⁵ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xx, 466.

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ *Add. MS.* 5680, fol. 421; *Ings.*

(*Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxiii), 148.

²⁸ *Ibid.*; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), dcccxi,

45.

²⁹ *Recov. R. Suss. Hil.* 15 Chas. I, ro. 132; *ibid.* Trin. 18 Chas. I, ro. 53; Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 15 Chas. I; *ibid.* 18 Chas. I. Thomas Stollion paid castle-guard rent for the manor from 1661 to 1670.

³⁰ *Add. MS.* 5680, fol. 422; *Recov. R. Mich.* 21 Geo. III, ro. 199.

³¹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 10 Edw. II, no. 55.

Warbleton's death in 1332 it is described as 'not worth more than 13s. 4d. as there is a deficiency of water in summer'.¹ In 1594 two mills in Warbleton belonged to Thomas Stollion.² In 1613 one was conveyed by this family to Thomas Harrison and in 1662 the second mill was apparently in the possession of the family of Jenner.³

BATHURST [Badherste (xvi cent.)], in the south-east of the parish, was presumably held by the family of that name, which occurs as early as 1296,⁴ but it first appears as a manor in 1559, when Pelham Cheyney died seised of it, holding it of the manor of Warbleton by rent of 26s. 8d., its value then being £35.⁵ It subsequently followed the same descent as Cralle (q.v.).

BUCKSTEEP [Boxtep, Bocsteple (xiii cent.)] was evidently included in Wibert's domain of Warbleton, since at a later date William son of Wibert granted to Battle Abbey his 'tithe of Bucksteep',⁶ and it was held of the manor of Warbleton for half a fee.⁷ In 1265 Geoffrey de St. Leger, the first sub-tenant recorded, received a grant of free warren in his demesne lands here.⁸ The estate had been given to him and his wife Agnes by Thomas de Warbleton, probably her father.⁹ In 1302 his son John with Maud his wife received a similar grant.¹⁰

From this time Bucksteep followed the same descent as the manor of Wartling (q.v.) until the middle of the 16th century.¹¹ In 1556 Thomas Devenish (grandson of Elizabeth Massingberd, one of the heirs of Thomas Lord Hoo) conveyed the manor or its reversion to Nicholas Pelham,¹² and three years later his son William Devenish released it to Anthony Pelham.¹³ Anthony was succeeded by his son Herbert before 1567,¹⁴ who sold Bucksteep in 1598 to Thomas Stollion.¹⁵ This family held Bucksteep until 1611, when they conveyed it by fine to Walter Cowley,¹⁶ who jointly with Mabel his wife conveyed it in 1619 to Sir George Farewell.¹⁷ From him it passed in 1636 to Richard Turner,¹⁸ who sold the estate in 1673 to Thomas Martin,¹⁹ who died in 1684 leaving the manor by will to his niece Lucy Cook with the proviso that if she died unmarried or without heirs the property should be used for the endowing of a school in Putney for twenty sons of watermen. Lucy Cook married Sir Samuel Gerrard and died without heirs in 1685. A suit with regard to the charity ended in Bucksteep being conveyed to another Samuel Gerrard.²⁰ In 1694 the latter sold it to Joseph Weller,²¹ whose estate having become encumbered, in 1710 an act was passed vesting it in trustees for the purpose of a sale.²² In 1717 it was therefore conveyed by the Wellers and others to William Daw,²³ who sold it in the same year to the Rev. John Citizen, rector of Westham.²⁴ He devised it to his brother-in-law Thomas Turton, who left it to his son Thomas. In 1788 and 1790 it was in

the possession of John Tourle, but by this time the manorial rights appear to have lapsed. In 1777 the Rev. William Hayley, writing to Sir William Burrell, says: 'The manor is said to be lost so many years having elapsed since any court was holden. The Rev. M^r Citizen having enfranchised several of the tenements no quit rents are now gathered: some I have heard were collected several years ago but were returned to the tenants.'²⁵

The reputed manor of **CRALLE** appears to have originated in the land in Warbleton held by the family of that name at an early date. In 1278 James son of Robert de Cralle held a tenement in Warbleton and was still living in 1296.²⁶ Robert de Cralle had succeeded by 1327 and was holding half a fee of the manor of Warbleton in 1350.²⁷ Richard Cralle son of another Robert was assessed in 1412 for land in Warbleton worth £20, and was holding the half-fee in 1428.²⁸ He died without issue, leaving as coheirs three sisters, of whom Margery the wife of Richard Cheyney inherited Cralle,²⁹ which passed to Simon Cheyney their second son³⁰ and descended with Crowham (q.v.) to Sir Oliver Cheyney. He appears to have parted with the property in 1623-4 to Thomas Jones.³¹ In 1634, however, John Manning died seised of it, and it passed with the iron mills and forge to his sisters, Anne wife of Sir Thomas Lawley and Elizabeth wife of Robert Carson³² and afterwards wife of the Hon. Francis Coventry.

Anne Lawley, after the death of her husband in 1646, married Sir John Glynn, and they and Anne's son Sir Francis Lawley were holding one moiety in 1652.³³ From Sir Francis it passed to his son Thomas,³⁴ and later to Esther, said to have been second daughter of Sir Francis, who married Robert Palmer, and their son Richard was holding it at the end of the 18th century.³⁵

The other moiety passed from Elizabeth and Francis Coventry to their daughter Elizabeth, who married Sir William Keyt of Elrington.³⁶ From them the moiety should have descended to their grandson Sir William, but evidently formed part of the endowment of his sisters, since in 1718 Agnes Keyt, Elizabeth and her husband Thomas Charles, Viscount Tracy, and Margaret and James Higford sold the property to John Lade,³⁷ afterwards made a baronet. Sir John died without issue in 1740 and his lands passed to his great-nephew Sir John Inskip, who took the name of Lade and died without issue about 1825.³⁸

In 1873 Cralle was in the possession of John Day,³⁹ and it is now owned by Oliver Batten, esq.



LADE. *Argent a fesse wavy between three scallops sable.*

¹ Ibid. 6 Edw. III (1st nos.), no. 72.
² Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 36 Eliz.
³ Ibid. 14 Chas. II.
⁴ *Subsidies* (Suss. Rec. Soc. x), 9, 218.
⁵ *Inqs.* (ibid. iii), 16.
⁶ Dugdale, *Mon.* iii, 247.
⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. 25 Edw. III (1st nos.), no. 54; *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 102.
⁸ *Cal. Chart. R.* 1257-1300, p. 54.
⁹ Add. MS. 39379, fol. 246.
¹⁰ Chart. R. 11 Edw. III, m. 5, no. 8.
¹¹ Add. Chart. 31310; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vii, 664; E. Chan. Proc. 41, no. 239; Add. Chart. 23800, 29770; De Banco R. Trin. 3 Hen. VII, m. 407; *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, iii, 779.
¹² Feet of F. Hil. 2 & 3 Ph. and Mary.

¹³ Ibid. East. 1 Eliz.
¹⁴ *Inqs.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. iii), 50.
¹⁵ Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 40 Eliz.
¹⁶ Ibid. Trin. 9 Jas. I.
¹⁷ Ibid. Trin. 17 Jas. I; *Recov. R. Mich.* 17 Jas. I, ro. 43.
¹⁸ *Recov. R. East.* 12 Chas. I, ro. 58; Feet of F. Suss. East. 12 Chas. I.
¹⁹ Ibid. 25 Chas. II.
²⁰ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 161.
²¹ Feet of F. Suss. East. 6 Wm. and Mary.
²² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvii, 171.
²³ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix), 75.
²⁴ Ibid.
²⁵ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 161.
²⁶ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. vii), 870; *Subs.*

(ibid. x), 9.
²⁷ Ibid. x, 218; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, no. 657.
²⁸ Add. Chart. 30328; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* x, 145; *Feud. Aids*, v, 150.
²⁹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxxv, 47.
³⁰ Ibid. 48.
³¹ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix), 25.
³² *Inqs.* (ibid. xiv), 682.
³³ *Fines* (ibid. xix), 26; G.E.C. *Baronetage*, ii, 141.
³⁴ Ibid.
³⁵ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 246.
³⁶ G.E.C. *Baronetage*, iii, 140.
³⁷ Ibid.; *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix), 26.
³⁸ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 246; *Berry, Suss. Gen.* 246.
³⁹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxv, 110.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

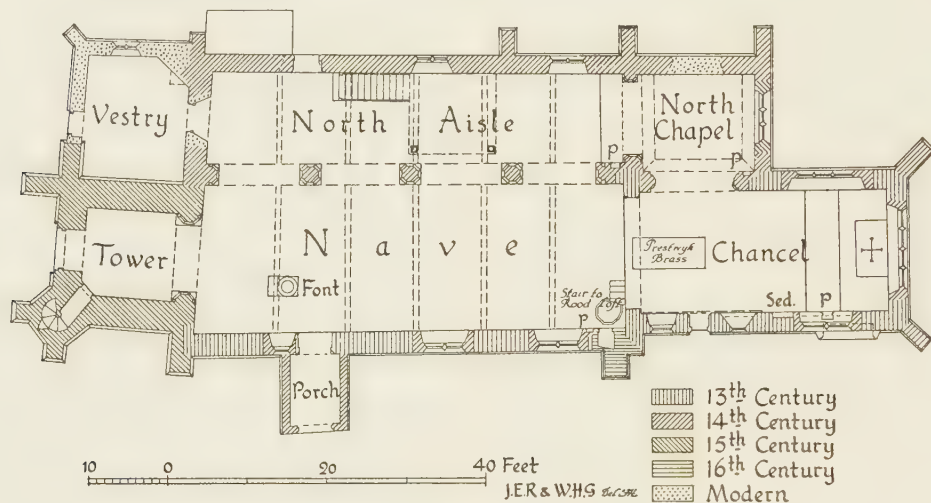
There was an estate in Warbleton, consisting in 1777 of 290 acres, known as *IWOOD*, first mentioned in 1324.¹ It is said to have come to the family of Alman of Westham by their intermarriage with the family of Iwood in the time of Henry VII.² In the 16th century 100 acres called Iwood Park were held successively by Thomas and John Reade.³ Iwood was afterwards in the possession of the Stollion family,⁴ from whom it was bought by the trustees of Henry Smith's Charity, probably about the beginning of the 17th century.⁵

The church of *ST. MARY* consists of *CHURCH* chancel, north chapel, nave, north aisle, with modern vestry at the west end, south porch, and west tower. The chancel and nave were built in the 13th century and there are no traces of

The nave has an arcade of four bays with arches of two orders and octagonal columns with moulded capitals and bases. In the south wall are two two-light windows of the 14th century with cinquefoiled main lights and quatrefoils above, with external hood-moulds. There is a piscina recess in the south-east corner. The rood-loft stair was contrived in the south-east buttress and the doorway remains, as does part of a corbel to support the loft in the south wall. The porch has a much-renewed arch with continuous mouldings. West of the south door is a single broad trefoiled light.

The aisle opens to the chapel by a pointed arch of two orders with semi-octagonal responds and moulded capitals, and in the south-east angle is a piscina. In the

PARISH CHURCH of ST. MARY WARBLETON



earlier work. The north chapel and aisle and the porch were added in the 14th century and the tower in the 15th. The roofs are tiled.

The chancel has diagonal buttresses at the east end and a four-light east window with late-14th-century tracery. In the north wall is a three-light 14th-century window with cinquefoiled heads and flattened containing arch. The 14th-century south-east window is of two lights with cinquefoil-headed main lights, a spherical triangle above, and an external hood-mould with curled stops. Next come two plain lancets, the western of which has a transom below which a trefoiled light forms a low-side window. There is a doorway of the 13th century with continuous chamfer. There is a piscina recess, and a sedile with chamfered arch. On the south wall is part of a 13th-century string-course, and below the south-east window on the outside is a tomb recess with moulded segmental head. The chapel, which opens to the chancel by a pointed arch of two orders with moulded capitals, has a three-light east window of the 15th century with rectilinear tracery, and in the north wall are indications of a blocked window. There is a buttress at the north-east corner. There is a piscina in the south-east angle. The chancel arch is of two orders springing from 13th-century corbels.

north wall are three two-light 14th-century windows with cinquefoiled lights and trefoils above under flattened heads; the westernmost is shorter than the others. There is a plain doorway with continuous chamfer, and three buttresses. The east gable of the aisle has old coping. The west end now opens into the modern vestry by a door, above which is a window similar to those in the north wall.

The tower arch is of two orders with moulded capitals and bases. The west doorway has a hood-mould and continuous mouldings, and above is a three-light window with modern tracery. The tower has angle buttresses with three set-offs, and a stair turret at the south-west angle, rising slightly above the embattled parapet, is finished with a plain parapet. There are rectangular openings in the north, south, and west faces, and the belfry windows are of two lights, except the west, which is a single light, and all are trefoiled under a square head. On the string-course below the parapet are grotesque heads. The entrance from the stair into the first stage of the tower is closed by a massive door, lined externally with iron and having inside remains of elaborate locking mechanism.⁶

The chancel has a wagon-roof of medieval date; the chapel roof is plastered, with an 18th-century moulded wall-plate; the nave and aisle have plastered wagon-

was pulled down in 1795.

⁶ The door seems to have belonged to a 16th-century safe or strong room. It is illustrated in *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvii, 166.

¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1321-4, p. 433. A family of Iwode existed about this date: *Subsidies* (Suss. Rec. Soc. x), 218, 330; *Cal. Close*, 1385-9, p. 483.

² *Add. MS.* 5679, fol. 593.

³ *Chan. Proc.* (Ser. 2), 155, no. 25.

⁴ *Horsfield, Sussex*, i, 570.

⁵ *Add. MS.* 5679, fol. 593. The house

roofs of uncertain date and the porch has a plastered ceiling.

The font is of the 13th century, with a moulded round bowl, shaft, and base. In the aisle is a galleried manorial pew of 18th-century date. In the north-east window of the chancel is good heraldic glass of the 15th century: Pelham impaling Lewknor, Lewknor impaling Kighley, and Kighley impaling Lewknor, also a few other fragments. In the east window of the chapel are remains of 15th-century glass, including two censing angels. In the north-west window of the aisle are fragments of 15th- and 17th-century glass; to the latter period belongs a shield with Byshe, second quartering gone, quartering Wokingdon and Redinghurst. On the chancel floor is a fine canopied brass to William Prestwyk, 1436, Dean of St. Mary's College, Hastings. The figure is vested in surplice, furred almuce, and cope, the morse and orphreys of which bear a quotation from the Office of the Dead. There is a long marginal Latin inscription in hexameters. The canopy, which is much damaged, is cusped and crocketed with a finial terminating in a pelican. On the south wall of the chancel is a brass inscription to John Prestwyk and William and Joan Prestwyk, of the 15th century. On the south wall of the nave is a good mural marble to Thomas Roberts, 1638, with a shield at the top, Roberts impaling Howland. On the north wall of the north chapel is a large marble monument with a bust of Sir John Lade of Southwark, died 1740.

The tower contains six bells, four of which are dated 1734, one 1826, while the sixth was added in 1908.¹

The plate consists of a communion cup of silver, 1774; a paten on a foot, of silver, 1775; a paten on a foot, of silver, no hall-mark, but inscribed 'Eccl^{ae} de Warbleton in Sufsexia 1666'; a paten on a foot, of silver, c. 1670; a flagon of silver, 1775.²

The registers begin in 1558.

The church of Warbleton in 1291 *ADVOWSON* was valued at £5.³ The advowson of the rectory belonged in the 14th century, and doubtless before, to the lord of the manor.⁴ It descended with the manor (q.v.) and in the 18th century became vested in the Trustees of Smith's Charity,⁵ who leased it from time to time to various persons.⁶ In the middle of the 19th century it was acquired by the Haviland family,⁷ who still hold it, the present patron being the Rev. E. A. Haviland.

The rectory of the ecclesiastical parish of Bodle Street, formed in 1855, is in the alternate gift of the rectors of Warbleton and Herstmonceux.

In 1443 the executors of the will of William Prestwyk, 'late clerk of the King's parliament',⁸ received licence to found a chantry in the parish church of Warbleton. For the support of this chantry and to provide 'a house of honest habitation for the chaplains' John Pelham granted the advowson of the rectory and vicarage of Burwash and one acre of land there.⁹ Apparently, however, it was never actually erected, as nothing further is heard of it;¹⁰ there is, however, a farm in the parish called Chantry Farm, but the origin of the name is unknown.

Mention is made in the accounts of the rector's proctor for the years 1403-4¹¹ of 'the chapel of Bucksteep', evidently a chapel-of-ease attached to the rectory of Warbleton. The chapel was probably dedicated in honour of St. John the Baptist, as the offerings on his day¹² amounted to £12 19s. 3d., those at other times totalling only 16s. 8½d. A yearly pension of £4 was paid to the Abbot of Battle by the rector, possibly in lieu of the tithes of Bucksteep originally granted (see above, p. 207) to the abbey.

Henry Smith, during the reign of CHARITIES Charles I, gave his Longney Estate in Gloucestershire for the benefit of the poor of several parishes of which Warbleton is one. The parish receives £11 per annum from this estate.

Thomas Stolyon, by his will dated 10 October 1679, gave land in Mayfield, Warbleton, and Heathfield to his executors upon trust to apply the income in apprenticing two poor boys or girls of the parish and to assist them in starting life after their apprenticeship. The endowment consists of some 20 acres of land at Vines Cross, Heathfield, and the invested proceeds of sale of real estate, and produces about £30 per annum.

Ann Hawksworth, by her will dated 22 September 1732, gave to the rector her lands and buildings in Whatlington upon trust to apply the rents in apprenticing poor children of the parish. The endowment now produces about £12.

The charities of Stolyon and Hawksworth are regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 4 April 1919 and the income is applied by the rector and two other trustees in the assistance of poor persons under 21 who are preparing to enter upon a trade.

Paul Buston, by his will proved in P.C.C. on 22 November 1682, gave two pieces of land containing approximately 6 acres and situated on the Maidstone and East Farleigh roads in Kent upon trust to apply the rents in the purchase of bread for the poor to be distributed by the overseers each Sunday in the churchyard. The land produces approximately £18 per annum, which is distributed in bread. The charity is administered by trustees appointed by the parish council in place of the overseers.

Miss Harriet Louisa Dunn, by her will proved in London on 3 June 1911, gave £200 2½ per cent. Consols to the rector and churchwardens upon trust to distribute the income amongst the poor of Warbleton. The endowment now produces about £7 per annum.

The same donor gave another £100, the income, now £2 10s., to be applied for the general benefit of the clothing club in Warbleton.

Francis Guerout Dunn, by his will proved in London on 17 December 1920, gave £900 to be applied towards erecting a parish room at Rushlake Green. Before his death a temporary wooden building was erected on a piece of land given by another owner for the same purpose. As it was considered unnecessary to build another room, and in view of the fact that the sum given was insufficient to erect such a building, it was agreed to accumulate the legacy, and the dividends were invested in augmentation of the capital by the Official Trustees.

¹ Ibid. xvi, 228.

² Ibid. iv, 218.

³ *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 137b.

⁴ *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 8 Rich. II, no. 40; Feet of F. Div. Co. Mich. 7 Hen. IV; De Banco R. Mich. 1 Hen. V, m. 250.

⁵ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 421.

⁶ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.); Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 570.

⁷ Lower, *Sussex*, i, 90.

⁸ He was dean of the collegiate church of Hastings and died in 1436, being commemorated by the fine brass in Warbleton Church.

⁹ *Cal. Pat.* 1441-6, p. 143.

¹⁰ *Suss. Chantry Records* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xxxvi), p. xxii.

¹¹ Mins. Accts. bdle. 1031, no. 5.

¹² Eight persons 'serving in the chapel' on that day were paid 12s. 7d.

THE HUNDRED OF HENHURST

CONTAINING THE PARISHES OF

ETCHINGHAM SALEHURST

IN 1086 this hundred comprised the local manors of Salehurst and 'Drisesel'¹ and detached portions of estates which in the time of Edward the Confessor were attached to manors in Pevensey Rape.² The tenement of 'Henherst' was next the forest of the Count of Eu by Blackbrooks, about 1220, so was probably situated near the north-east corner of Brightling parish, on the boundary of the present hundred.³

In 1248 the hundred was divided into the four tithings of Salehurst, Glottingham, Iridge, and Fontridge,⁴ and the same are recorded till the 17th century.⁵ Etchingham is not recorded by name in the Domesday Survey; the village was included in the tithing of Fontridge,⁶ but the portion of the parish between Haremere and Hurst Green was in Iridge,⁷ and another part, the north-western corner, was in the hundred of Shoyswell [q.v.]. During the 13th century the 'vill' of Robertsbridge is mentioned with the hundred,⁸ and was evidently part of the Liberty of the Abbey of Robertsbridge lying within Henhurst Hundred and constituting one-third of it, but in the course of the century the abbot withdrew it, with a loss of 8s. to the hundred.⁹

In the Population Abstract of 1831 part of the parish of Hawkhurst which projected into Etchingham parish was included in the hundred; but by Local Government Board Order the Sussex portion of Hawkhurst was transferred to Etchingham in 1886.

In 1835, according to Horsfield,¹⁰ parts of the parishes of Mountfield and Dallington were included, but the first of these clearly refers to the detached portion of Etchingham which is surrounded by Mountfield parish.

The descent of the hundred follows that of the rape of Hastings.

¹ The 3½ hides of Drisesel (later Drigsell in Salehurst, now lost), held in 1066 by Cane and in 1086 by Alvríc, were presumably split up at an early date, the name-place being given, about 1200, by Richard de Drichessele to the Abbey of Robertsbridge: *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), i, 63.

² *V.C.H. Sussex*, i, 403, 404.

³ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), 77; *Place-Names of Sussex*, ii, 455.

⁴ Assize R. 909, m. 27.

⁵ Add. MS. 33175. Cf. *Subsidies* (Suss. Rec. Soc. x), 220, 332. In the Muster Roll of 1539 Glottingham is omitted: *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (1), 298.

⁶ *Subsidies* (Suss. Rec. Soc. x), ii, 332.

⁷ Information from Mr. S. P. Vivian.

⁸ Assize R. 915, 921, 924.

⁹ *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 217.

¹⁰ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 580.

ETCHINGHAM

Achingeham, Hekingham, Echginghamme (xii cent.).

The parish of Etchingham, containing 3,913 acres of land, of which 15 are covered by water, has a station on the Southern Railway. The main road from Hastings to Ticehurst and another from Lewes to Tenterden, which formerly passed over Burgh Hill but was diverted about 1830, meet at Hurst Green, whence they continue northward towards Kent.

The Rother, which in the 14th century was navigable for ships up to Etchingham,¹ and which formerly conveyed the iron ore from the forges at Robertsbridge, Etchingham, and Hawkhurst to Rye,² crosses the centre of the parish, and a tributary called the Dudwell joins the main stream near the church. The land is undulating, the highest points being reached in the north-east of the parish, but no part is more than 200 ft. above the ordnance datum. The church is very picturesquely situated in a valley surrounded by wooded hills. There has been much discussion with regard to the exact site of the manor-house. The following extract from a letter written to Mr. Spencer Hall by Mr. Snepp about 1850 may be taken as correct:—'The house or castle of Etchingham was situated east of the church and west of the river Rother and north-west from the road leading from Hurst Green to Burwash . . . and was moated all round together with the church. There is now remaining a mound or bank where it formerly stood, and a late tenant Mr. George Sawyer had some earth removed and found the old foundation consisting of large blocks of sandstone.'³

On the slope of a steep hill $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of the church is Haremere Hall. Seacocks Heath, a large mansion in the north of the parish, said to have been built by the Goudhurst gang of smugglers,⁴ is the seat of Viscount Goschen. Shoyswell is situated about 2 miles north-west of the village, and Kitchingham a little over a mile due north; Bellhurst lies about a mile east from Kitchingham.

Kitchingham Farm is an early-16th-century building with an L-shaped plan, and a modern north extension to the east wing. It is built of plastered timber-framing on a stone plinth, and partly refaced with 18th-century brick and tile. The south and west walls of the west wing have the unusual feature of a pent-roof between ground and first floors, projecting about 4 ft., and supported at 5-ft. intervals by the projecting ends of the ceiling-joists. The first floor to these walls also overhangs, and is supported by projecting joist-ends and curved braces. The south-west corner-post has a moulded capping, and a diagonal brace above. The wall face has closely set vertical studding, and the doorway, in the south wall, has a moulded four-centred arch in a square head with carved spandrels. The main chimney-stack, of early-17th-century brick, has grouped shafts with a capping of projecting brick-courses. The interior has exposed timber-framing with diagonal braces. In the west gable, and only visible internally, is an original three-light window with moulded jambs

and mullions. The roof is of queen-post construction, with wind-braced side purlins, largely rebuilt in the second half of the 16th century.

Haremere is a large house of ashlar and brick, of which the earliest part is the west wing, dating from about 1616,⁵ with original four-light transomed windows in the west front. About 1682 the south-east wing was added, at the south end of the earlier building; and in 1860 the house was much enlarged, the west and south fronts being plastered and provided with battlements. Above the square moulded head of the doorway in the north front of the south-east wing is the date 1682 and the initials 1stR, and a number of the ashlar are carved with initials, probably for members of the Busbridge family and their connexions. The entrance-hall, near the centre of the west wing, has 17th-century panelling, divided by fluted pilasters, and an ornate overmantel with caryatides. The dining-room has another elaborate overmantel with decoration of leopards' heads, &c., incorporating a panel, probably Flemish, carved with biblical scenes. Several other rooms have panelling, and the main staircase, of 1682, has moulded and twisted balusters and plain newels with ball terminals.

Court Lodge, astride the western boundary of the parish, is an L-shaped house of c. 1615, originally timber-framed but refaced. The interior, though much modernized, has much exposed framing, ceiling-beams, and shaped wall-posts. A modern glazed doorway incorporates fragments of 15th-century glass with 'tabernacle' work in yellow stain and enamel brown line. Shortridge, farther north, is of the same period, much altered and enlarged. The earlier portions of the house, built with coursed ashlar, retain some of the original windows, and inside there are stop-chamfered ceiling-beams and joists.

Shoyswell Old Manor,⁶ though incorporating part of a 15th-century house, is practically a 17th-century rebuild, with later additions. It is of timber-framing on an ashlar plinth; the north elevation is in four bays, with the main front, to the hall, set slightly back between the gabled ends of the wings, and a wing projecting eastwards forming an extra bay. This bay has the older work in the shape of fairly closely set vertical studding, the framing of the other bays being in rectangular panels, of 17th-century date where not renewed. Similar vertical studding is visible in the east wall of the hall, and the roof above retains an early tie-beam, morticed for a missing king-post. In the southern end of the east wing, on both floors, are moulded 15th-century beams, but most of the other features, including windows and fire-places, are of the 17th century or later.

Ironworks were established in Etchingham by the middle of the 16th century.⁷ Sir Robert Tyrwhitt had a forge and a furnace there in 1574,⁸ and they appear to have been held by the various lords of the manor until the end of the 17th century,⁹ when they were probably discontinued, as after this date no further

¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1348-50, p. 178.

² *Cal. S. P. Dom.* 1635-6.

³ Hall, *Echyngham of Echyngham*, 21.

⁴ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 587.

⁵ A stone with this date is built into the

wall of the yard.

⁶ Shoyswell Manor, now the Seligman Convalescent Home, is a modern, and unwarranted name.

⁷ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lxii, no. 27;

Straker, *Wealden Iron*, 297-9.

⁸ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* iii, 241. Thomas Worge also had a furnace there at that time.

⁹ *Recov. R. Hil.* 18 Jas. I, ro. 67; *ibid.* Mich. 1684, ro. 129.

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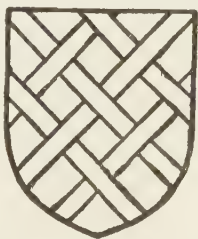
mention of them is found. The soil is favourable for hops. There are 1,844 acres of pasture land and 777 acres of woodland, the largest tract being Burgh Wood in the east of the parish.

Hurst Green, a hamlet 1 mile north-east from Etchingham station, is an ecclesiastical parish formed in 1907 from the civil parishes of Etchingham and Salehurst. The church of the Holy Trinity, a red brick building in the Early English style, was built in 1884 and is a vicarage in the gift of the Bishop of Chichester.

There is no mention of *ETCHINGHAM MANORS* by name in the Domesday Survey, but at that date Reinbert, the sheriff of Hastings and founder of the house of Etchingham, was holding one hide in the hundred of Henhurst, which had been held by Cane before the Conquest.¹ The overlordship followed the descent of the rape (q.v.).

The heir of Reinbert was Dru of Pevensy,² whose son Simon de 'Achingham' was living about 1150³ and died shortly before 1166,⁴ when his son William de 'Akingeham' held 7 fees of the Count of Eu.⁵ These fees, constituting the lordship of Etchingham, were held in 1212 by William's son Simon,⁶ who was Sheriff of Sussex in 1235. His son William received a grant of free warren in his demesne lands of Etchingham in 1253,⁷ in which year he died seised of the manor, held by a castle-guard rent of 21s. for each 16 weeks' ward.⁸ His heir was his brother Simon, whose son William died in 1294.⁹ His son William, who married Eve daughter and co-heir of Ralph de Stopham,¹⁰ had a renewed grant of free warren in 1295.¹¹ He was a man of prominence, serving in the French and Scottish wars and being present at the battle of Boroughbridge when the rebellious Earl of Lancaster was defeated in 1322.¹² At his death in 1326, when he was about 60, the manor of Etchingham with its members was held as 5½ fees.¹³ His brother and heir Robert died two years later without issue and the manor passed to the third brother, Simon,¹⁴ clerk, rector of Herstmonceux,¹⁵ on whose death, c. 1340, the property passed to James, eldest son of a fourth brother Richard.¹⁶ Sir James was holding 5 fees of the Earl of Richmond in 1342,¹⁷ but on his death in August 1350 Etchingham was said to be held as 3 fees.¹⁸

He was followed by a son and grandson both named



ETCHINGHAM. *Azure fretty argent.*

William, of whom the latter, succeeding in 1389,¹⁹ died in 1412 leaving a son Thomas.²⁰ He was succeeded in 1444 by his son Thomas, who on his death in 1482 left as co-heirs two daughters, Margaret and Elizabeth.²¹ Three years later a claim to the manor was successfully made by their cousin John, son of Richard, younger brother of Thomas.²² From him it apparently passed to his cousin Elizabeth, whose second husband Sir Goddard Oxenbridge died seised of the manor in 1531,²³ his son Thomas surviving him only nine years. The latter left Etchingham to his daughter Elizabeth, who by a settlement made in 1552²⁴ was to hold it for life with remainder to her husband Sir Robert Tyrwhitt, a member of the Lincolnshire family of that name.²⁵ Her son William was a Roman Catholic, and although he proved his loyalty to the queen on many occasions, suffered for his religious opinions, being imprisoned in the Tower for attending Mass at his sister's marriage in 1580.²⁶

Robert Tyrwhitt, son of William, succeeded on his father's death in 1591²⁷ and shortly afterwards he incurred the temporary displeasure of the queen by his marriage without her sanction with Lady Bridget Manners, eldest daughter of the Duke of Rutland, a girl of sixteen.²⁸ He settled the manor upon his son William²⁹ and died in 1620, apparently in debt, as in 1622 his son was granted the goods and chattels forfeited by the outlawry of his father 'in divers personal actions upon several suits commenced against him', on condition of discharging his father's debts and paying a tenth of the overplus into the Exchequer.³⁰ This would account for the sale of Etchingham shortly afterwards to Sir George Strode, who as a royalist had his estates sequestered in 1643.³¹ Six years later, however, he received his discharge and was holding the manor at his death in 1663.³² On the death of his grandson Sir George in 1707 it passed to his son Sir William Strode,³³ who afterwards assumed the surname of Lytton, and left as heir a cousin William Robinson Lytton,³⁴ whose two daughters, Barbara, married to William Warburton, and Elizabeth wife of Lawrence Williams, having petitioned for permission to alienate part of their estate,³⁵ sold Etchingham in 1752 to the trustees of Sir John Lade.³⁶ Sir John died in 1759 and was succeeded by his posthumous son Sir John,³⁷ the property, however, being held in jointure by his widow Anne³⁸ until her death. Sir John Lade was holding it in 1796,³⁹ and jointly with his wife Letitia in 1802, and died without issue in 1838.⁴⁰ Before his death he had sold the manor to John Micklethwait of Iridge,⁴¹ on whose death in 1824 it passed to his nephew Sir

¹ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 403b.

² *Ibid.* 380.

³ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxviii, 109, 158-9.

⁴ Simon de Echingham figures on the *Pipe R.* 11 Hen. II (*Pipe R. Soc.*), p. 92, but is replaced by his son William next year (*ibid.* p. 90).

⁵ *Red Bk. of Exch.* i, 203.

⁶ *Ibid.* ii, 554.

⁷ *Cal. Chart. R.* i, 416.

⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* i, 287.

⁹ *Ibid.* iii, 191.

¹⁰ *V.C.H. Bucks.* iv, 211.

¹¹ *Cal. Chart. R.* ii, 461.

¹² Spencer Hall, *Echyngham of Echyngham*, 7, 8.

¹³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, 725.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* vii, 175.

¹⁵ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (*Hist. MSS. Com.*), i, 141.

¹⁶ *Assize R.* 938, m. 55; *De Banco R.* Hil. 42 Edw. III, m. 294.

¹⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, p. 232.

¹⁸ *Ibid.* ix, 601.

¹⁹ Tomb in church.

²⁰ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* i Hen. V, no. 18.

²¹ Margaret married first William Blount and secondly Sir John Elrington; Elizabeth's first husband was Roger Fenys or Fiennes, and her second Goddard Oxenbridge.

²² *De Banco R.* Hil. 1 Hen. VII, m. 12.

²³ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lii, 116.

²⁴ Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 6 Edw. VI.

²⁵ He died in 1581 and she then enfeoffed her son William: *Add. MS.* 5679, fol. 333.

²⁶ *Notices of the Tyrwhitt Family*, 33.

²⁷ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccxxxi, 65.

²⁸ *Notices of the Tyrwhitt Family*, 33.

²⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccxc, 144.

³⁰ *Pat.* 20 Jas. I, pt. 6, no. 14; *Notices of the Tyrwhitt Family*, 37.

³¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xix, 110.

³² *Cal. of Com. for Comp.* 2049; *Cal. Drake Coll. D.* (Lewes), no. 224.

³³ *Ibid.*; *Cat. Deeds for Sale*, F. Marcham.

³⁴ *Add. MS.* 5679, fol. 333.

³⁵ *Lords' Journals*, xxvii, 276, 351.

³⁶ *Horsfield, Sussex*, i, 585; Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 1752.

³⁷ *G.E.C. Complete Baronetage*, v, 109.

³⁸ *Add. MS.* 5679, fol. 333.

³⁹ *Cat. Deeds for Sale*, F. Marcham.

⁴⁰ *G.E.C. Complete Baronetage*, v, 109; Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 42 Geo. III.

⁴¹ *Add. MS.* 39492, fol. 133.

Sotherton Branthwayt Peckham Micklethwait,¹ and it then descended with Iridge (q.v.).

There was a park of Etchingham, which probably originated in the grant of free warren made to William de Echingham in 1253 and frequently repeated to his successors. In 1329 it was said to consist of 400 acres of timber and copsewood worth 60s.² After this it is not mentioned again.

The fishery of Etchingham appears to have been an important part of the manor. It is mentioned as early as 1316 when William of Etchingham complained of persons poaching in his fishery there,³ and in 1329 it is valued at 10s.⁴ In 1540 Thomas Walsh died seised of fisheries in Etchingham and Salehurst.⁵ The site of the fishponds may still be seen.

The manor of *BELLHURST* is probably the 'Bel-lest' of the Domesday Survey, entered under Staple Hundred, where 2 virgates formerly held by Ældret were held in 1086 by William.⁶ It was held of the manor of Etchingham by knight service, being one of the 5½ fees so held in 1302.⁷ In 1379 Sir Alan Buxhull died seised of the manor.⁸ It then descended with the manor of Bugsell (q.v.) until about the middle of the 15th century.⁹ In 1448 the manor appears to have been transferred to John Conghurst and Joan his wife,¹⁰ and in 1469 Thomas Conghurst was in possession.¹¹ John Conghurst in 1517 left the manor for life to his wife Bridget, with remainder to his daughter Mary.¹² In 1563 Thomas Roberts held a court of the manor as guardian of John Forrest,¹³ who in 1595 with Margaret his wife conveyed it to John Haye.¹⁴ He died in 1605 leaving a son Herbert, aged 14,¹⁵ who afterwards represented Arundel in the parliaments of 1642 and 1648, and was the father of John Hay,¹⁶ M.P. for Rye in 1643 and for Sussex in 1654. John's grandson William,¹⁷ the poet and author of various works,¹⁸ held the appointment of Keeper of Records in the Tower and represented Seaford from 1734 to 1755. He died in 1755 but had evidently conveyed Bellhurst before this to his eldest son Thomas, who was holding it in 1751.¹⁹

Thomas died unmarried in 1786 leaving two sisters Frances and Henrietta.²⁰ On the death of Frances in 1803 her cousin the Rev. Francis Tutte,²¹ son of the sister of William Hay the poet, succeeded to the estate, and upon his death, unmarried, about 1823, Bellhurst

passed to James Hay Langham, a descendant of John Langham, who married Sarah seventh daughter of Herbert Hay about 1650. From him the Hay estates have descended to Captain John Christie of Glydebourne.

GLOTTENHAM [Glottyngham (xiv cent.)] though locally situated in Mountfield belongs to Etchingham parish. In 1299 when the first record of the manor is found²² it was in the possession of Robert de Echingham and Parnel his wife.²³ It descended to Sir James de Echingham, who was holding Glottenham at his death in 1349.²⁴ Shortly after this the manor appears to have been alienated, probably on lease, to Bartholomew atte Felde, whose heirs were his sisters Mabel Neyr and Katherine wife of John Nicol. In 1361 Mabel Neyr conveyed half the manor of Glottenham to Richard Kenne,²⁵ and in 1362 she and Katherine and her husband John Nicol conveyed the other half to Robert de Ore,²⁶ acting as trustee for a settlement of the Etchingham manors on William de Echingham.²⁷

From this time Glottenham descended with the manor of Etchingham (q.v.)²⁸ until 1622, when it was sold by William Tyrwhitt to Edward Hales and John Austen.²⁹ The latter eventually seems to have come into sole possession, and a John Austen paid castle-guard rent for the manor from 1661 to 1670.³⁰ Robert Austen made similar payments from 1717 to 1725, and William Austen from 1731 till his death in 1751. He is then said to have left Glottenham by will to Richard Righton or his wife Sarah (probably William's daughter),³¹ who, however, were already in possession in 1743.³² Benjamin Righton, their son, was the owner in 1777 and 1786,³³ and William Austen Righton in 1801.³⁴ In 1835 it was held by Mrs. Righton.³⁵

HAREMERE is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey, but was apparently early included in the fees pertaining to the manor of Etchingham.³⁶ A family of this name appears in the second half of the 12th century. Miles, the earliest recorded de Haremere, had a son William, living in 1200,³⁷ whose widow Maud conveyed land and rent in Haremere to Osbert de Haremere in 1226.³⁸ Various members of the family are mentioned during this century,³⁹ and in 1296 and again in 1332 land in the parish was held by William de Haremere.⁴⁰ In 1339 John de Haremere and his mother, doubtless the widow of William, were returned as holding Haremere, then assessed at 40s.,⁴¹ and in 1428 another William occurs among the tenants of Etchingham.⁴² About 1460 John Haremere was holding the manor,⁴³ and his heir was Katharine, daughter of his son Laurence, who married John Sessely⁴⁴ and



HAY. *Argent a fesse gules between six martlets sable with two martlets or on the fesse.*

¹ Hall, *Echyngnam of Echyngnam*, 15.

² Extents on Debts, file 3.

³ *Cal. Pat.* 1313-17, p. 430.

⁴ Extents on Debts, file 3.

⁵ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxii, 18.

⁶ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 407, where this is identified with Bellhurst in Beckley.

⁷ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxiii, 240; *Feud. Aids*, v, 150; *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 102.

⁸ Chan. Inq. p.m. 5 Ric. II, no. 6.

⁹ *Ibid.* 1 Hen. IV, no. 11; *ibid.* 3 Hen. VI, no. 31; Subs. R. 184, no. 74.

¹⁰ Add. MS. 39376, fol. 54.

¹¹ Rentals and Surveys (P.R.O.), 658.

¹² P.C.C. 5 Ayloffe.

¹³ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 56.

¹⁴ Feet of F. Suss. East. 37 Eliz.

¹⁵ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cclxxxix, 75.

¹⁶ Recov. R. East. 1653, ro. 41.

¹⁷ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 56.

¹⁸ Lower, *Worthies of Sussex*, 235 et seq.

¹⁹ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 56; Recov. R. East. 30 Geo. II, ro. 367.

²⁰ Berry, *Sussex County Gen.* 118.

²¹ *Ibid.*; Recov. R. East. 44 Geo. III, ro. 227; Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 346.

²² Various members of a family de Glottenham occur in the Robertsbridge charters from 1200 onwards.

²³ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. vii), 1128 A.

²⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. 25 Edw. III (1st nos.), no. 44; *Coll. Top. et Gen.* vii, 120.

²⁵ Add. Chart. 42646. Rich. Kenne had already received lands in Glottenham from Bartholomew atte Felde in 1358: Add. Chart. 9233.

²⁶ Feet of F. Hil. 36 Edw. III, no. 23.

²⁷ *Ibid.* Mich. 36 Edw. III, no. 39.

²⁸ *Ibid.* Hil. 3 Rich. II, 18, no. 74; Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lii, 116 and liii,

27; *ibid.* ccxxxi, 65; *ibid.* cccxc, 144.

²⁹ Feet of F. East. 20 Jas. I.

³⁰ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 449.

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix), 180.

³³ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 449.

³⁴ Recov. R. Mich. 41 Geo. III, ro. 275.

³⁵ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 563.

³⁶ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 102; *Feud. Aids*, v

150; Ch. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccclvi, 114.

³⁷ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), i, 53, 61, 82.

³⁸ Feet of F. East. 10 Hen. III, file 7, no. 19.

³⁹ Hist. MSS. Com. op. cit. 95, 102, &c.

⁴⁰ *Subsidies* (Suss. Rec. Soc. x), 11, 332.

⁴¹ *Coll. Top. et Gen.* vii, 118.

⁴² *Feud. Aids*, v, 150.

⁴³ Dawson, *Hastings Castle*, i, 294.

⁴⁴ Early Chan. Proc. 446, no. 40.

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joined with him in conveying it in 1524 to John Hotherope.¹

It was granted in 1539 by Henry Wyke and Richard Russell, probably trustees, to Thomas Walshe and Joan his wife for life, with remainder successively to Robert and Goddard their second and eldest sons respectively.² On the death of Thomas in 1540 the manor was held by his wife Joan in dower certainly until 1559,³ when it passed to her grandson Robert, son of Goddard.⁴ In 1612 Robert Walshe and his wife Elizabeth and others sold the manor to John Busbridge,⁵ who died seised of it in 1615,⁶ and his eldest son John was holding in 1659.⁷ John's sister Mary married James Temple and Haremere was for a while held by the Temple family,⁸ but subsequently sold to Sir John Lade, whose son John was in possession in 1774 and 1780.⁹ It is said to have passed by a co-heiress from this family to John Snapp, who was in possession in 1835.¹⁰ Some years before 1870 it was acquired by John L. Maclean, who was then the owner.¹¹ Haremere is now the residence of Captain Gough.

The manor of *KITCHINGHAM* [Kechenham (xiv cent.); Ketchyngham, Kychenham (xv and xvi cent.)] is first mentioned in 1291, as part of the possessions of Bayham Abbey,¹² and in 1328 the abbot obtained a grant of free warren in his demesne lands there.¹³ It remained in the ownership of the abbey until its dissolution in 1526, when it was granted with the other abbey lands to Cardinal Wolsey for his college at Oxford¹⁴ (afterwards Christchurch), being at that date farmed by John Fowle.¹⁵ After the fall of Wolsey it was granted to the College of St. George of Windsor,¹⁶ but subsequently John Fowle died holding Kitchingham, including an iron mill, of the king in socage and by his will, of April 1542, left it in two parts to his daughters Marion, wife of Goddard Bachelor, and Mildred.¹⁷ Edward Bachelor died in 1605 holding Kitchingham, his heir being his brother Thomas.¹⁸ The other half evidently passed to Thomas May, who held land there at his death in 1610.¹⁹ His son Anthony May died in 1636 seised of half the manor and farm and of an annuity from that portion then in the hands of Thomas Bachelor.²⁰ Kitchingham then descended with the May's manor of Pashley (q.v.) being still described in 1673 as a moiety,²¹ but from 1685 onwards as the manor.²²

LUNDSFORD [Lundresford, Lunesford (xii and

xiii cent.) Lonesford (xiv cent.)] was held of the manor of Etchingham for one knight's fee, paying 3d. castle-guard rent to the lord of the rape every sixteen weeks.²³

A family of the name were settled in this neighbourhood as early as the 12th century.²⁴ Bartholomew de Lunsford (c. 1170) was succeeded by his son Hugh, whose son Richard²⁵ predeceased his father, and the estates passed about 1214²⁶ to Hugh's nephew John, probably the son of his brother Richard.²⁷ John's son Simon, with his sons John and Hugh, occurs in 1287,²⁸ and a Simon de Lunsford was evidently holding the estate in 1296.²⁹ In 1327 and 1332 William de Lunsford was the holder.³⁰ The William who died in 1352 was probably his son; he left a son John, under age,³¹ who seems to have married a wife Margery in 1372.³² A John was also holding the manor in 1423 and 1428, and was married to Elizabeth daughter of Thomas de Echingham.³³ His son William was in possession of Lunsford in 1469 but died in that year or the next,³⁴ and another William held it in 1480. He or, more likely, a namesake died seised of it in 1531, leaving it to his son John,³⁵ a boy of 12. From the latter it descended to Sir John Lunsford, who was holding it in 1608.³⁶ His son Thomas succeeded shortly after 1615.³⁷

This Sir Thomas, who was in possession of the manor in 1639,³⁸ played a prominent part on the royalist side in the Civil War. He seems to have sold his estates about 1649, when he was fined for his delinquency and was returned as having 'no personal estate but much indebted'.³⁹ The manor was shortly afterwards acquired by Thomas Houghton of Mayfield, principal of Clifford's Inn, who in 1659 paid castle-guard rent for the manor.⁴⁰ The property devolved in 1670 upon his son and three daughters,⁴¹ passing eventually to the second daughter Elizabeth, who had married William Westbrooke of Ferring.⁴² In 1703 the manor was again in possession of several heirs,⁴³ and was apportioned to Phoebe Westbrooke, who had married Thomas Chowne of Alfriston. Phoebe died in 1713 and Thomas Chowne was holding the manor by right of his wife in 1724.⁴⁴ He left the estate in that year to his son Thomas, who held it till



LUNSFORD. Azure a chevron between three boars' heads or.

¹ Feet of F. Trin. 16 Hen. VIII; E. Chan. Proc. 525, no. 56.

² Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxii, 18.

³ Recov. R. Suss. Trin. 1559.

⁴ Ibid. 1580; Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), bdle. 191, no. 29.

⁵ Feet of F. Suss. East. 10 Jas. I.

⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccclvi, 114.

⁷ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 233.

⁸ Suss. Arch. Coll. xvi, 292.

⁹ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 233; Recov. R. Mich. 21 Geo. III, ro. 199.

¹⁰ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 587.

¹¹ Lower, *Sussex*, i, 163.

¹² *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 139.

¹³ *Cal. Chart. R.* iv, 90, 99. It was presumably held of Etchingham, as it is named in the 5½ fees held by Sir William de Echingham in 1302: *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, p. 102.

¹⁴ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 609; *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix), 28.

¹⁵ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, iv (1), p. 988.

¹⁶ Ibid. v, 1351.

¹⁷ *Ex inf.* Mr. S. P. Vivian, from Inq.

p.m. and will: cf. *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xiv, no. 417.

¹⁸ Ibid. no. 59.

¹⁹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxxiv, 174.

²⁰ Ibid. cccclxxix, 73.

²¹ Recov. R. Hil. 25-6 Chas. II, ro. 51.

²² Ibid. East. 1 Jas. II, ro. 240; *ibid.* East. 2 Jas. II, ro. 213; *ibid.* 1 Geo. II, ro. 84; *ibid.* Mich. 60 Geo. III, ro. 213.

²³ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 102; Add. MS. 5679, fol. 668; *Feud. Aids*, v, 150.

²⁴ Sometime about 1600 they were supplied with Saxon ancestors bearing such unusual names as Samuel and Lorenzo, complete with charters: *Coll. Top. et Gen.* iv, 140.

²⁵ Richard married Alice, niece of Alverd de St. Martin, and was dead by 1206: *Curia Regis R.* iv, 312; v, 289.

²⁶ Hugh died about 1214, when his widow Agatha sued Alice widow of Richard for dower: *ibid.* vii, 226. Hugh left a daughter Maud, wife of William Gulafre: *ibid.* v, 289.

²⁷ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MS.

Com.), 34, 65, 85, &c.

²⁸ *Assize R.* 924, m. 28.

²⁹ *Subsidies* (Suss. Rec. Soc. x), 11.

³⁰ Ibid. 220, 332.

³¹ Add. MS. 39379, fol. 158.

³² *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc.), no. 2414.

³³ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 668; *Feud. Aids*, v, 150.

³⁴ Dawson, *Hastings Castle*, ii, 294; Add. MS. 5679, fol. 667.

³⁵ Ibid. Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xc, 83.

³⁶ Feet of F. Div. Co. Mich. 6 Jas. I.

³⁷ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 201; Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 11 Jas. I.

³⁸ Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 14 Chas. I; Recov. R. Hil. 1639.

³⁹ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix), 285; *Cal. of Com. for Comp.* 1243.

⁴⁰ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 670.

⁴¹ Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 22 Chas. II.

⁴² Ibid. Hil. 26-7 Chas. II.

⁴³ Ibid. Mich. 2 Anne.

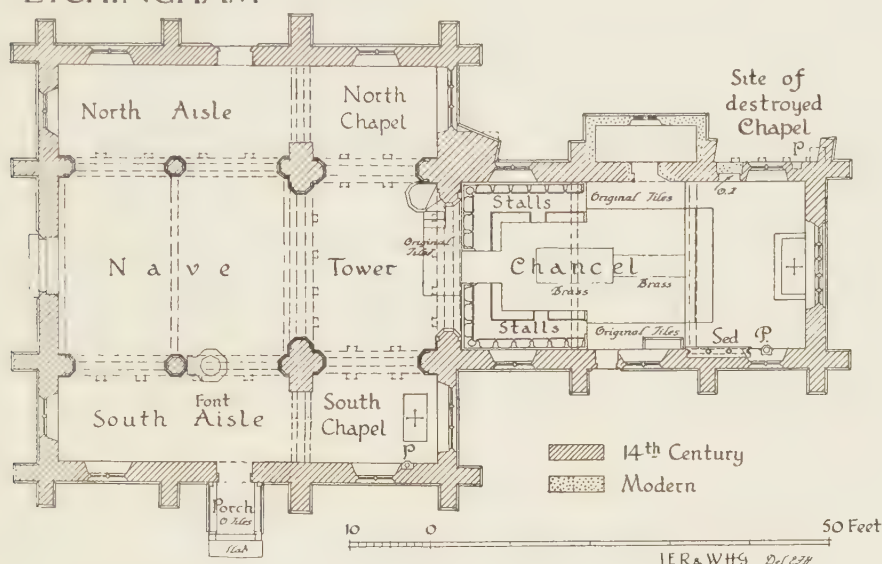
⁴⁴ Berry, *Suss. Gen.* 133; Add. MS. 5679, fol. 670.

his death in 1788,¹ when it passed to his daughter Elizabeth, who jointly with her husband Hans Maurice Count de Bruhl, ambassador from the court of Turin, was holding Lundsford in 1802.² Elizabeth lived until 1811,³ but in 1808 Lundsford was in the possession of William York and Phoebe his wife,⁴ possibly a relative.

SHOYSWELL was another estate in this parish which was held of the manor of Etchingham⁵ and paid a castle-guard rent of 3s. yearly.⁶ William Shoswelle was a tenant of Etchingham in 1428,⁷ and John held the manor in 1469.⁸ In 1549 it was in the possession of Thomas Shoyswell,⁹ who left it to his son Benjamin, whose widow Ann was holding it in 1596.¹⁰ Her son Thomas died without issue; and in 1614 Sybil widow

storied nave, north and south aisles and south porch. The nave is continued into the tower and the aisles are carried as far as its east wall. The CHURCH church, which is the finest example of 14th-century work in the county and is remarkable for the rich and varied flamboyant tracery of its windows, was erected by Sir William de Echingham, who died in 1388-9. A contract for making five windows, apparently those of the nave, was made in 1363,¹⁸ and this may be taken as the approximate date of the building. No structural alterations have been made subsequently, except the erection of a modern vestry, replacing a sacristy long previously destroyed, and the remaining ancient fittings are contemporary

PARISH CHURCH of S.S MARY & NICHOLAS ETCHINGHAM



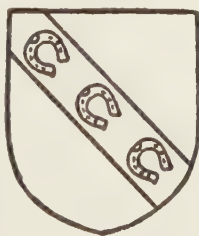
of Thomas with her second husband Sir George Newman and her brother-in-law John Shoyswell and his wife Judith were dealing with the manor.¹¹ In 1653 it was held by Roger Shoyswell son of John,¹² 'a worthy gentleman and captain of the trainbands',¹³ who died seised of it in 1697, leaving no issue.¹⁴ Next year it was sold by Judith French, evidently heir of Roger, and her sons, to Mr. John Constable of Burwash,¹⁵ whose great-grandson Mr. William Constable was holding it in 1776 and 1796,¹⁶ after which the manorial rights probably lapsed.

The tithes of Shoyswell were granted to the College of St. Mary at Hastings by Henry Count of Eu at an early date.¹⁷

The church of ST. MARY AND ST. NICHOLAS consists of a chancel, north vestry, central tower, clere-

with the fabric. The material is the local Hastings sandstone commonly employed in the district.

The chancel, of three bays, has buttresses with three set-offs at the eastern angles and between the windows. The east window is of five lights and the side windows each of two lights, all with flamboyant tracery and exceptionally lofty. In the south wall is a small plain pointed doorway with, externally, a trefoiled head. A doorway in the north wall leads into the vestry, built in 1860, which has two small quatrefoil lights in the north wall. East of this is a blocked doorway which led to a chapel, now destroyed, of which a piscina and four roof corbels are visible on the exterior.¹⁹ The chancel arch, like all the others in the church, is of two chamfered orders with semi-octagonal responds, having moulded capitals and bases. The tower is severely plain, with single-light belfry windows with trefoiled heads. It has a plain parapet and a low pyramidal tiled cap, surmounted by an ancient copper vane with the arms of Echingham (a fret). The stair turret, square



SHOYSWELL. Or a bend sable with three horse-shoes argent thereon.

¹ Berry, *Suss. Gen.* 133; *Recov. R.* East. 6 Geo. III, ro. 33.

² Feet of F. *Suss. Trin.* 42 Geo. III.

³ Lower, *Suss. Worthies*, 87; where it is stated that on her death without issue her estates in Frog Fille passed to J. H. Tilston, who took the name of Chowne. But the descent of Lundsford is obscure.

⁴ *Fines* (*Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix), 286.

⁵ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 102.

⁶ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 312.

⁷ *Feud. Aids*, v, 150.

⁸ *Rentals and Surveys* (P.R.O.), 658.

⁹ *Recov. R.* Mich. 3 Edw. VI, ro. 124.

¹⁰ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 312.

¹¹ Feet of F. *Suss. Trin.* 12 Jas. I.

¹² *Ibid.* Hil. 1653.

¹³ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 315.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ Feet of F. *Suss. Mich.* 10 Wm. III.

¹⁶ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 315.

¹⁷ *Cat. Anc. Deeds*, iii, D. 1073.

¹⁸ *Suss. N. & Q.* iii, 52.

¹⁹ On what was the floor of this chapel, now part of the churchyard, is a slab with the matrix of a brass cross.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

in plan, is at the north-east angle and rises above the parapet, at which point it is converted to an octagon. As late as 1856 the belfry was approached by an 18th-century balustered stair in the chancel,¹ the original entrance having been outside, where traces of a blocked door are visible.

The lower story of the tower forms the easternmost bay of the nave, which has two more bays to the west; and the clerestory is also carried on into the tower, so that there are on each side three two-light windows with flat segmental heads. The unfinished appearance of the west end suggests that it may possibly have been intended to extend the nave westwards.² The west door is pointed, with continuous mouldings, and the window above it, of three lights, has involved tracery of very unusual design. Externally there are buttresses, with two set-offs, in line with the arcades. The aisles are identical in design, though the width of the north (11 ft. 6 in.) is slightly greater than that of the south (10 ft. 6 in.). There are buttresses with two set-offs at the angles and, on the north and south sides, between the western window and the door, and similar but larger buttresses in line with the west wall of the tower, and the parapets are plain. The aisle windows have flat segmental heads, the three side windows being of two lights, identical in design with those in the clerestory, and that at the east end having three lights surmounted by a row of four quatrefoils. The north and south doorways are plain two-centred arches with a continuous chamfer, and on the south is a contemporary timber porch of plain but pleasing design.

All the roofs have been renewed; those of the nave and chancel have king-posts, and there are lean-to roofs to the aisles; all are covered with tiles. The tower has a flat panelled ceiling.

The chancel possesses fine triple sedilia with cinquefoil-headed canopies and a piscina with trefoiled head. There are some old tiles in the chancel floor and beneath the tower. The original stalls³ survive in a remarkably perfect condition; there are nine on each side, three of which are returned; all retain their misericords which are mostly carved with foliage, the easternmost on each side having a fox preaching to geese; the desks have traceried fronts and the wainscot at the back is similarly treated, the panels above the return stalls, however, being open to form the rood-screen. The stalls stand on their original stone platform with quatrefoil air-holes. There is a plain piscina in the south aisle, and a Jacobean communion table with bulbous legs. The font has an octagonal bowl and base with a shaft composed of clustered columns.

There are numerous remains of stained glass in the windows of the aisle, and shields⁴ in the main east and west windows. Most of this glass belongs to the latter part of the fourteenth century, and doubtless formed part of the original glazing. In the east window of the chancel are shields of Edward III, the Black Prince, John Duke of Lancaster (lord of the Rape of Hastings), and the Duke of Brittany (his predecessor). The east window of the north aisle has fragments of old glass inserted here in 1931. In the tracery lights are four angels, two with harps (the heads modern); in the

main lights the Evangelistic symbols and other fragments. In the north windows are—(east) Echingham, (centre) Northwode (?), (west) Echingham, reset with a jumble of fragments. The west window of the aisle has a shield of Dalingridge. The west window of the nave has four shields: Echingham, Maltravers, sable fretty argent, argent a fleur-de-lis or within a border argent, and sable a fesse argent and a border of white glass. In the south aisle are—(south-east) Echingham, (centre) St. Clare, (south-west) Waleys, (west) Shoyswell. In the north clerestory are—(east) azure 3 crowns or, possibly for St. Edmund, (centre) sable a sagittarius or, (west) Courtney; on the south are—(east) azure . . ., (centre) de Vere, (west) azure a cross paty or, for Warde (?).⁵

In the south aisle is a 17th-century funeral helm, with the crest of a lion, and a banner of the arms of Strode. There are four brasses. On the chancel floor is the mutilated brass of Sir William de Echyngham, in armour, with two inscriptions, the upper in Latin and the lower in Norman-French. The former states that Sir William rebuilt the church in honour of the Assumption and St. Nicholas, while the latter records the fact that he died about midnight on 18 January 1388–9. This brass was formerly canopied. The head of the effigy is missing. On the chancel floor also is a fine brass with three figures, Sir William de Echyngham, 1412, Joan, his wife, 1404, and their son Thomas, 1444. There is a triple canopy with crocketed finials; at the base is a Latin inscription, and there were eight escutcheons, only two of which now show achievements. At the top a shield with impalement only: FitzAlan quartering Maltravers; at the base a shield with Echingham impaling Battersford quartering Pepplesham.⁶ On an altar tomb against the south wall of the chancel is a brass inscription to Thomas Echyngham, 1482. In the south aisle are the brass effigies of Elizabeth Echyngham, 1452, and Agnes Oxenbridge, 1480, with Latin inscriptions.

There is one bell in the tower inscribed 'John Wilnar made me 1632'.⁷

The plate consists of a silver communion cup given by Dr. Hugh Tolly, rector, in 1841; a chalice, with jewelled knop, and a paten, given in memory of William Cecil Russell in 1928; an alms-dish bearing the date 1679 and a shield with 3 horse-shoes in bend, presumably the arms of Shoyswell;⁸ a paten bearing the same date-mark as the alms-dish; and a very large pewter flagon—'Bought for the parish church of Echingham in sussex march 26 anno 1635'.

The registers begin in 1561.

The first mention of the church is in *ADVOWSON* the *Taxatio* of 1291, when the rectory was assessed at £8.⁹ In 1363 when William de Echingham rebuilt the church¹⁰ he gave one acre of land for the enlargement of the churchyard.¹¹ By 1535 the value of the church had increased to £11.¹² The advowson followed the descent of the manor until the middle of the 19th century, when it seems to have been acquired by William Clenlow, whose heirs held the patronage in 1870.¹³ These heirs seem to have been the Rev. Robert Gillbe Barton and Humphrey Conwell

¹ Shown in *Suss. Arch. Coll.* ix, 351.

² Foundations, possibly of an earlier church, exist west of the present west end: *ex inf.* the rector.

³ The stalls and the exceptional length of the chancel suggest an intention of making the church collegiate.

⁴ For identification of the heraldry see *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxvi, 151–2.

⁵ For account of other heraldry in the windows at the end of the 18th century, see *Suss. Arch. Coll.* ix, 356–9.

⁶ *Ibid.* lxvi, 151; where the shovellers of Pepplesham are wrongly called pelicans.

⁷ *Ibid.* xvi, 208.

⁸ The lines of the bend are omitted.

⁹ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 137.

¹⁰ See above.

¹¹ *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.* (Rec. Com.), 274b

¹² *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), i, 346.

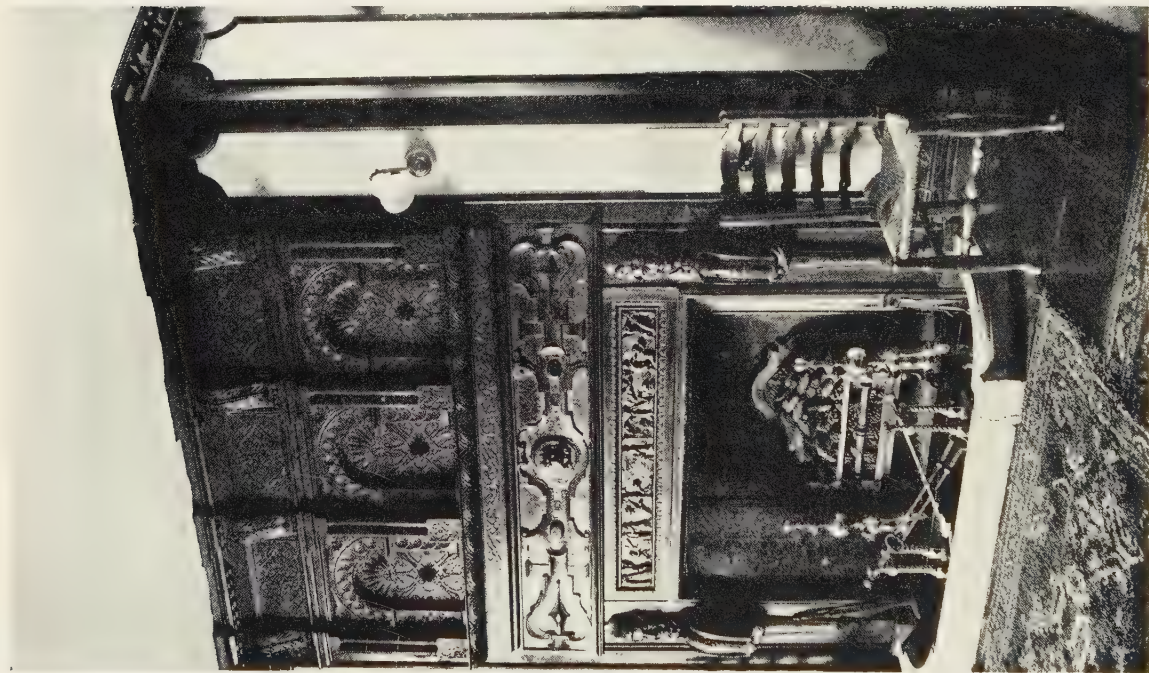
¹³ Lower, *Sussex*, i, 163.



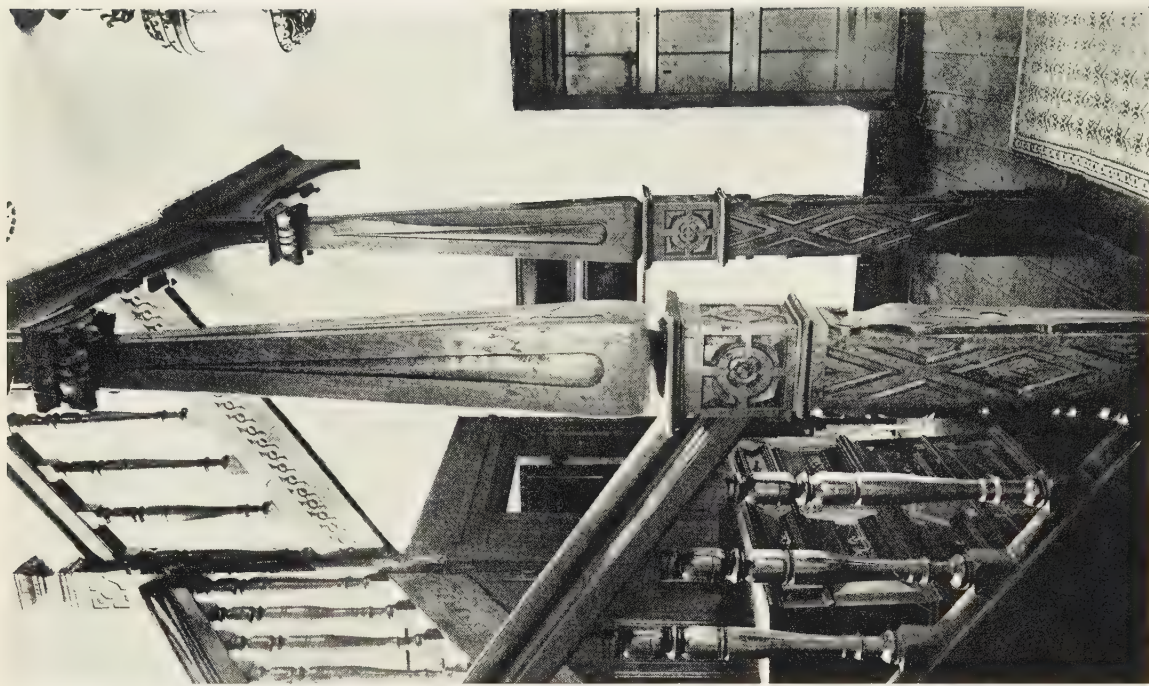
ETCHINGHAM CHURCH, FROM THE NORTH-WEST



ETCHINGHAM: KITCHINGHAM FARM



ETCHINGHAM: HAREMERE, DINING-ROOM FIRE-PLACE



SALEHURST: GREAT WIGSELL, THE STAIRCASE

Barton, who sold the advowson and rectory in 1875 to W. H. Eley. He sold them in 1893 to the Rev. Theodosius C. H. Boughton-Leigh, who two years later sold the advowson to Katherine wife of William Shepherd, then rector.¹ It is now in the gift of the Bishop of Chichester.

The Rt. Hon. William Carr, Viscount Beresford, by codicil to his will proved in London on 21 February 1854, gave £100 to the incumbent and churchwardens,

the income to be applied for the poor of the parish. The endowment produces £2 15s. annually, expended sometimes in meat and sometimes in coal for the poor.

Lina Seligman's Charity, founded by codicil to her will proved in London on 4 November 1925, is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners of 5 April 1927. The endowment produces annually in dividends about £12, which is expended at Christmas in coal, clothing, &c., by the trustees, who are appointed by the parish council.

SALEHURST

Salhert (xi cent.); Sallesta (xii cent.); Salhirst (xiii–xiv cent.); Salehurst (xiii cent. on).

Of this parish, contiguous with Kent, some of the old boundary stones remain, while 'Udiam oak' marks the division between Salehurst and Ewhurst and is the western boundary of the Kent and Sussex Rother Levels.² It is composed of the village of Salehurst, situated 5 miles north from Battle and 13 north-west from Hastings, part of the village of Hurst Green, the small country town of Robertsbridge, and the hamlet of Silverhill. The new ecclesiastical parish of Hurst Green was formed in 1907 from Salehurst and Etchingham. The River Rother enters from the north-west, divides into two branches, encircling Robertsbridge and uniting again, and receives the Darwell and the Bay (Poll Bay), which have come respectively from Bugsell and Robertsbridge mills. It was once navigable at least as far as Robertsbridge,³ where the Hastings road passes on its way to Tunbridge Wells. A station, built in 1851, at Robertsbridge on the Southern Railway now also serves the Kent and East Sussex Railway. The population in 1931 was 1,991.⁴ The musters of 1539 counting Robertsbridge 'hundred' showed 147 men,⁵ while the return of 1676—488 Conformists and 28 Nonconformists⁶—gives an indication of the population then. The area of the civil parish is 6,565 acres, including 21 inland water. The subsoil is Hastings Beds with alluvium in the valley of the Rother, the soil loam, the chief crops hops and wheat, but most of the land is under pasture. The steel industry started at Robertsbridge in the latter part of the 16th century,⁷ the manor-house 'sometime called Elam' having in 1609 buildings for the steel-makers, 8 forges and a mill-house.⁸ The output was 120 tons in 1717, and during the Seven Years' War Robertsbridge supplied great guns. They were shipped down the Rother to Rye.⁹

Henry III visited Robertsbridge Abbey in 1225.¹⁰ The royal army on its way to Lewes in 1264 plundered it and obliged the monks to pay ransom;¹¹ Edward I as king stayed here on 22 November 1295 and 8 August 1297;¹² and Edward II used it as a half-way house between Bayham and Battle.¹³ Horace Walpole in 1749 described the roads at Robertsbridge as 'bad beyond all badness' and the village as 'wretched', the only accommodation being taken by smugglers.¹⁴

Parsonage Farm, east of the church, incorporates a 15th-century one-storied hall, in which a first floor was

inserted and a large chimney-stack erected against the north wall about 1600. Additions were made and the walls refaced during the following centuries, but the west wing retains one bay of the medieval roof, with the beams and king-posts with curved struts and braces, and the north wall has the original moulded wall-plate. All the timbers are smoke-blackened. The south-east room on the ground floor has moulded panelling and cornice, and the fire-place has an early-17th-century surround and overmantel with caryatid pilasters. The room above this has also panelling and overmantel of the same date.

Bantony, the residence of Mrs. Andrews, is said to be of 16th-century origin but has been so much altered that little early work can be seen, beyond some timber-framing and ceiling-beams. A room east of the hall has good bolection-moulded panelling, with moulded dado and cornice. In the garden are numerous worked stones from Robertsbridge Abbey, and in the house is a corner-stone from a table tomb bearing the buckle badge of the Pelhams, flowers, and a plain shield.¹⁵ Further west, Bugsell, now renamed Beech Farm, is mainly early 17th century, but the east wing is of the first half of the 16th century. The east wall of this wing, refaced, retains two original two-light windows and has an overhanging first floor with moulded bressummer and corbels. The overhang is carried round the north wall and has hollow-chamfered braces. Much of the framing is exposed internally, the east wing having close-set vertical studding. This wing has two 16th-century doorways with four-centred arches in square heads, and some panelling of c. 1650.

In the north-east of the parish is Great Wigsell, the residence of Lady Milner, which stands on an artificial plateau. The earlier portion of the house, consisting of the main, north, range, a south-east wing, and the staircase wing in the angle between them, was probably built by Henry English, who acquired the manor about 1625. This north front, built of coursed ashlar, is divided into three bays by the central, three-storied, gabled porch. Above the entablature of the main entrance is a moulded panel enclosing a plain shield, and at the head of the panelled and moulded door are panels with the initials HE and WE (for Henry and William English) and the date 1641. The bays east and west of the porch are uniform and have gabled dormers; all the windows are of two lights, with square heads,

¹ Add. MS. 39469, fol. 107.

² Hodson, *Salehurst*.

³ Ibid. 4.

⁴ *Pop. Ret.*

⁵ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (1), 298.

⁶ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xlv, 145.

⁷ *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 246; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* ii, 216, iii, 241, lxvii, 42–52; Thorpe, *Cat.*

of *Battle Abbey Charters*, 177–9; Straker, *Wealden Iron*, 312–14.

⁸ Thorpe, op. cit. 143 n.

⁹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxvii, 45–52.

¹⁰ *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 72–3.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² *Cal. Pat.* 1292–1301, p. 302.

¹³ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* viii, 173.

¹⁴ Hodson, op. cit. 6.

¹⁵ Probably part of the tomb of Sir John Pelham, 1429: *Suss. Arch. Coll.* iii, 220. Another relic of the abbey is a large 13th-century vaulting boss, carved with foliage and with dog-tooth ornament in the mouldings, now built into the wall of the Mission Room in East Street.

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moulded jambs and transoms. The drawing-room, at the east end of the north wing, has moulded ceiling-beams and is lined on three sides with 17th-century panelling. The west side has a wooden partition wall of heavily moulded panelling, and there was formerly a second partition a few feet to the east, making a passage. The surrounds to the fire-place and the overmantel are contemporary, and there is panelling of the same period in the hall. In the library is a fire-back with the date 1625 and the monogram HPE, for Henry English and Persis his wife. The staircase is in six flights; at the bottom of the stair is an arcade of three bays, formed by two carved wooden posts, of which the eastern forms the bottom newel. A similar arcade on the first floor supports the attic landing; the balusters are turned and moulded. The chamfered plinth to the west wall of the staircase block, originally external, shows in the passage of the kitchen wing.

On the east side of Northbridge Street, near the bridge across the Rother, is an L-shaped house, now divided into several tenements. The west range is of c. 1500 and had a one-storied central hall, in which a floor was inserted and a chimney-stack built about 1600; about which time the original two-storied north end was rebuilt and the north-east wing added. The west front had an overhang, but the greater part has been underbuilt in brick; part of the front to the hall still has the overhang, with a moulded bressummer. Above is early vertical studding. A four-light window on the east side of the hall and a doorway with square, moulded head in the west wall are of c. 1500. The interior has exposed timber-framing and ceiling-beams. The hall roof is in two bays, of 10 ft. and 12 ft.; the king-post to the main truss is octagonal, with moulded cap; the end king-posts are plain. The tie-beams have curved braces and are carried on shaped wall-posts. All the early timbers are smoke-blackened.

On the east side of the main street of Robertsbridge, Rose Bank is of the 14th century, a first floor and chimney-stack having been inserted in the central hall late in the 16th century. The west front had overhanging upper floors at each end, but that at the north is partly hidden by a modern addition and that at the south has been underbuilt. The recessed front retains plastered timber-framing with curved diagonal struts; the upper wall is coved to meet the roof, which is carried across from the projecting wings; the windows are modern. In the south wall is a late-17th-century chimney-stack. Between the hall and the north wing is a moulded beam at first floor level, and the roof has the greater part of two 11 ft. 6 in. bays. The cambered tie-beams, supported by heavy shaped posts, have large curved and moulded braces, and the king-posts are square.

The Seven Stars Inn, at the corner of East Street, also incorporates much of a house of late-14th-century date, originally with central hall and two-storied end wings. The usual floor and chimney-stack were inserted in the hall c. 1600; a large addition built to the east end of the south wing c. 1660; and subsequent alterations on a large scale include the refacing of the main front. The roofing above the recessed front of the hall is carried on heavy curved braces, and the framing of the east and north walls is exposed. The ends of the early hall are marked internally by moulded ceiling-beams at first floor level. Dividing the hall into two uneven bays is a 14th-century truss, of 20 ft. 6 in. span, reaching the full height of the house. The cambered tie-beam has moulded braces forming a wide

segmental arch and carried down the wall-posts to the ground; it supports a square king-post, with four-way braces carried down the post, carrying a central purlin and collar. The roof-trusses at the north and south ends of the hall, 11 ft. 6 in and 7 ft. respectively from the main truss, have similar tie-beams, and king-posts with curved side struts and a brace to the central purlin. The plaster to the south wall, at attic level, has wavy bands of comb work.

The building called Robertsbridge Stores, at the south end of the street, incorporates in its east range the framework of a 14th-century house, including moulded ceiling-beams, timber-framing, and shaped wall-posts.

On the west side of the street St. Catherine's Chapel, now a guest-house, is a 15th-century hall house, with the usual floor and chimney-stack inserted c. 1580; additions were made on the west in the 18th century and extensive alterations more recently. The east wall has timber-framing with close vertical studding. The south wall of the centre room has a moulded and embattled wall-plate; the corresponding north wall-plate has been re-used above the fire-place. The doorway to the north-west stair has a four-centred arch in a square head; over it is inscribed M. 1581. The open roof of the hall, in one bay, has cambered tie-beams with king-posts. Along the western side of the hall the roof is partitioned off to form an aisle by a braced side purlin supported by subsidiary king-posts; the aisle has a lean-to roof with curved rafters. Some of the plaster in the upper rooms has wavy combing of the 17th century.

The basement of the White Horse Inn seems to have been the ground floor of a 14th-century stone building. The west side has part of a vice, in ashlar, with a large circular newel; and there is a moulded ceiling-beam with trefoiled stops. The house above was rebuilt c. 1650 and contains a good staircase of that period; and the west range is of 16th-century origin. Immediately north of this is an early-17th-century house containing timber-framing with heavy studding and an original staircase with moulded splat balusters and square newels with ball terminals.

Opposite the Seven Stars Inn a building, now two shops, was a normal 15th-century central hall house, with inserted floor and central stack. The overhang remains at the north end of the east wall but has been underbuilt on the south. In the roof a square king-post with curved struts and four-way braces is still visible. Nos. 25 and 27 also originally formed one house, of early-16th-century date. The overhanging upper floor of the east front has been underbuilt. The roof is carried down beyond the wall face, being supported by four curved braces; and the north and south walls are gabled. The main chimney-stack, in the west wall, has an ashlar plinth, of the 16th century, but the upper part was rebuilt in brick in the 17th century; it contains a fire-place on the ground floor with a deep moulded lintel. Timber-framing with curved diagonal braces is visible inside, and moulded ceiling-beams and wall-plates to both floors. The roof, in three bays, has king-posts with two-way braces to the central purlin.

On the north of East Street, among a number of houses of the 17th- or early-18th-century, no. 23 has timber-framing exposed internally and a roof of medieval origin, which is said to have been thatched until recently. On the way to the Abbey is Redlands, an L-shaped house, of which the west wing is of the early 17th century and the east a century later.

Abbey Farm, on the south bank of the River Rother,

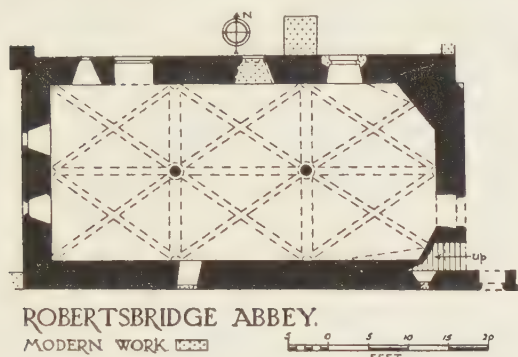


ROBERTSBRIDGE ABBEY: THE REFECTORY, LOOKING WEST, *c.* 1785
(From a drawing in the Burrell Collections)



ROBERTSBRIDGE ABBEY: ROOM IN THE ABBOT'S HOUSE

incorporates some part of the Cistercian *ABBEY OF ROBERTSBRIDGE*. The farm-house itself was most likely the Abbot's House. It is a rectangular building, at right angles to the Cellarers' range on the west side of the Cloister site. Built *c.* 1250, it measures 22×48 ft. internally, and has three stories, and is of stone rubble with ashlar dressings with later patching. A large early-17th-century wing has been built against the south side, and a modern kitchen wing at the east end. The lowest story has three double bays of quadripartite vaulting, with chamfered ribs forming rather flat two-centred arches, and springing from two circular columns down the centre line of the vault, and carved corbels in the side and end walls. The columns have moulded caps, but the bases are hidden by later flooring. The wall, and an additional vaulting rib, are carried diagonally across the south-east corner to take a stone staircase, entered from the east. The north-east corner is treated in the same manner, but later alterations have made it



impossible to see if there has been or is a corresponding stair in that angle. The opening to the stair has a segmental pointed and chamfered head. The stair was lit by a small one-light window on the south side, now blocked. Just north of the stair is the original doorway to the vaulted apartment. It has hollow-chamfered jambs; a later wood lintel; and a segmental, chamfered, rear arch.

The lower part of the north wall, at its eastern end, is of re-used ashlar, the upper part of modern brick. The first window is modern externally, but has the 13th-century rear arch. Just west of the window is a modern buttress of brick. The second window has been blocked. The third window has a segmental, hollow-chamfered head. West of it is a small one-light window with a shouldered, chamfered head. There are two similar windows in the west wall. The north-west angle of the building has a clasping buttress of ashlar. Towards the middle of the south wall is a blocked 17th-century doorway. In the east wall, at first floor level, are two late-13th-century doorways, now blocked, each with a two-centred moulded head and jambs, a moulded label, and a two-centred, rebated rear arch. The north wall has three modern windows, and one 16th-century window of three lights. The west wall retains part of a large, late-13th-century window, now partly blocked and having reset tracery. The two-centred head is moulded and springs from three-quarter jamb-shafts with moulded caps and bases. The label has stops carved with stiff-leaved foliage. The rear arch springs from circular jamb-shafts with moulded caps, and has a label with mask stops. Below the window, and carried across the west wall, is a chamfered string. The gable above has been partly rebuilt,

and faced with tile. South of the window is an internal recess with a moulded, trefoiled head springing from three-quarter jamb-shafts. There is also an external recess which may be a blocked window, but is partly hidden by creeper. It has a chamfered, trefoiled opening in a two-centred, hollow-chamfered head; and a label with returned stops. Towards the middle of the south wall is a plain doorway, probably of 16th-century origin, and east of it a blocked window, now used as a cupboard.

The doorway leading from the stair in the south-east angle has part of the original shouldered head, and the jambs. The south wall to the stair, at this level, has a hollow-chamfered corbel table with rounded corbels.

Towards the western end of this floor is a chimney-stack, inserted in the 16th century, and having a fireplace with moulded jambs. The westernmost room has moulded ceiling-beams of the same date.

There are considerable remains of the original roof of five bays, including three of the four principal trusses. The eastern end-post is missing, but the two first and the fourth principals have octagonal king-posts with moulded bases and square, moulded caps. The king-posts have four-way braces to the collars and the central purlin, and above the main collar they are carried up to the apex of the roof, stiffened by two intermediate collars. The braces to the central purlin are moulded, and the moulding is carried along the purlin. There are braces also to the main collar-beams and the principal rafters. What is now the first floor was originally open to the roof and presumably had an open hearth, the older timbers to the roof being thickly smoke blackened.

Running east from the south-east corner of the building is a few feet of walling which probably formed part of the Cellarers' range. It has a late-13th-century doorway, which now opens into the kitchen.

About 60 ft. south-east of the house is a part of the south-west angle of the Frater; about 27 ft. of the west and 29 ft. of the south walls are standing, but very badly broken and covered with ivy. The west wall has two broken openings, with traces only of one-light windows with round heads and segmental pointed rear arches. At the south end is a rough, round-headed recess. The walling, of rubble, is ashlar-dressed at the angle. At the west end of the south wall is a 13th-century doorway within which a 16th-century oven has been built in brick. The doorway has a two-centred hollow-chamfered head, rebated on the inner side. In the wall above are the broken apertures of three one-light windows with wide splays, probably of 13th-century date.

East of the Frater is a rectangular building, probably the Warming-house. It had been converted into an oast-house and is in a ruinous condition. Immediately east is the site of the Undercroft to the Dorter, and the east wall of the existing building has, at a 14-ft. interval, two of the moulded semi-octagonal corbels taking the ribs of the Undercroft vaulting. Between them is a doorway of late-13th-century date, with a two-centred chamfered head and continuous jambs. Towards the south end of this wall is the south jamb of a chamfered round-headed window, now blocked. The south wall has part of a much broken doorway, with a two-centred head, now plastered. The doorway in the north wall is modern. On the north wall is part of the ridge-moulding for the lean-to roof of the cloister.

Reset in the modern walls and buildings, and lying about on the site, are numerous worked stones of varying

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date. In the garden is an altar stone, also a large boss carved with stiff-leaved foliage and dog-tooth ornament. By the south-east corner of the Warming-house is the moulded base of a 13th-century semicircular respond.

Before the Conquest *SALEHURST MANORS* belonged to the Countess Goda, and in 1086 it was held by Reinbert the sheriff, of the fee of the Count of Eu.¹ The overlordship descended with the honour of Hastings, and the manor descended with the manor of Etchingham (q.v.), being often referred to as the joint manor of Etchingham-Salehurst.²

Of the nine fees held by Peter de Scotney of the Count of Eu in 1212³ half a fee held in 1320 by Sir Alan de Buxhull⁴ included *BUGSELL*,⁵ which was held in 1325 of William de Echingham by the service of ½ knight's fee and 21d. for 'justisyeld',⁶ and was still held of the manor of Etchingham at least as late as 1615.⁷

John de Bugsell, who made a grant to Robertsbridge abbey in 1293,⁸ may have been the son of Elias de Boxhull (c. 1260) whose father Walter was grandson of William.⁹ His son and heir Alan in 1305 granted that abbey all right in the two watermills of 'Retherlonde',¹⁰ and in 1306 sold tenements in Salehurst to William de Echingham.¹¹ In 1314 he was granted free warren in his demesnes, including Salehurst.¹² His infant son Alan succeeded in 1325¹³ and made proof of age in 1344.¹⁴ He fought in the Hundred Years' War, was made Constable of the Tower in 1366, created Knight of the Garter 1372, and buried, according to Weever, in Jesus' Chapel in St. Paul's in 1381.¹⁵ His posthumous son Sir Alan, heir in 1424 to his mother, who had married and survived John Montagu, Earl of Salisbury,¹⁶ granted the manor in 1443 to Sir Thomas Echingham, Sir Thomas Bugsell, kt., releasing all his claim.¹⁷ Bugsell then descended with Etchingham (q.v.) until 1482 when, on the death of Thomas Echingham, it evidently passed to his elder daughter Margaret and her husband Sir John Elrington, as in 1515 it was bequeathed by Edward Elrington to his younger son Richard.¹⁸



BUXHULL. Or a lion
azure fretty argent.

In 1539 Henry Wyke and Richard Russell settled the manors of Bugsell and Haremere on Thomas Walsh and his wife Joan,¹⁹ after which it descended with Haremere (q.v.)²⁰ until in 1801 John Snepp and Hannah his wife conveyed Bugsell manor to William Shadwell.²¹

The Hays of Bellhurst manor, Etchingham, received a grant of tenements in the parish from Edward Elrington in 1536;²² and in 1553 a John Bugsell granted Thomas Hay estates here called 'Totheys'²³ and the Hope, which had in 1515 been attached to Bugsell;²⁴ and the family seem later to have acquired the main Bugsell estate, which has descended with Bellhurst to Capt. John Christie of Glyndebourne.

A water iron-mill was appurtenant to the manor in the 16th and 17th centuries.

A messuage called Bernhurst was held in 1400 with the manor of Bugsell²⁵ and seems to have passed with that manor (q.v.) until 1482, and then to have gone to Elizabeth Oxenbridge, the younger daughter of Sir Thomas Echingham, as in 1531 Sir Goddard Oxenbridge died seised of the manor of *BARNHURST*.²⁶ His son Sir Robert Oxenbridge and Alice his wife in 1559 transferred it,²⁷ apparently to trustees for conveyance to Joan Walshe.²⁸ From 1590 to 1604 the manor was held by Joan's grandson Sir Robert Walshe of Haremere,²⁹ but by 1614 it had passed to Sir John Wildegos and then descended with Iridge (q.v.), being similarly partitioned between five co-heirs.³⁰ Three fifths were bought by John Brabon, and in 1803 James Cullum Kelly and Mary his wife, granddaughter of John Brabon, conveyed a moiety to Charles Wardroper,³¹ but no other reference has been discovered.

Fair Ridge³² is mentioned as 'the manor of Varegge' in 1476, when it was sold with the messuage of 'le Mote' (Moat Farm) by Robert and Anne Oxenbridge to John Elrington.³³ Similarly Boarsney Farm appears as 'the manor of Bosneys', of which George Peckham died seised in 1617.³⁴ But there is no other evidence that either of these properties was manorial.

*IRIDGE*³⁵ was a tithing of Henhurst Hundred from 1248 onwards.³⁶ It first appears as a manor in 1539, when Martin Brabon was in possession of it.³⁷ In 1560 Martin and Elizabeth his wife conveyed it to John Wildegos and his heirs.³⁸ The Brabon or Braban family had been resident at least since 1327.³⁹ John Wildegos settled the manor in 1588 on the marriage of his eldest son Sir John with Grace Annesley and died in 1606.

¹ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 363, 403a.

² *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 158.

³ *Red Bk. of Exch.* (Roll Ser.), 544.

⁴ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 405 (p. 102).

⁵ Bokeshulle (xiii cent.); Bokeselle, Bokeshull (xiii-xiv cent.); Boghesell, Boxhull (xiv cent.); Buxhull (xiv-xv cent.); Bugsell (xvi cent. onwards).

⁶ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, no. 704.

⁷ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cclvi, 114.

⁸ *Cal. Chart. Robertsbridge*, no. 282.

⁹ *Curia Regis* R. 160, mm. 56 d. 59 d. Elias married Rose daughter of Giles de Passele: *Assize R.* 1196, m. 1.

¹⁰ *Cal. Chart. Robertsbridge*, no. 288. Cf. no. 298.

¹¹ *Feet of F.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. vii), no. 1201.

¹² *Cal. Chart. R.* 1300-26, p. 271.

¹³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, no. 704.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* viii, no. 536.

¹⁵ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*, Buxhull.

¹⁶ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* i Hen. IV, pt. i, nos. 11, 69; *ibid.* 3 Hen. VI, no. 31. Cf. *Feud. Aids*, v, 149.

¹⁷ *Add. Chart. no.* 30834, with an inspeimus of 1564.

¹⁸ *Inq. p.m.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xiv), no. 376.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* no. 1048.

²⁰ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 76; *Chan. Proc.* (Ser. 2), bdle. 13, no. 103; bdle. 191, no. 29; *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xiv, no. 205; *Feet of F.* Suss. Mich. 5 Geo. I.

²¹ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 76.

²² *Feet of F.* Suss. Trin. 28 Hen. VIII.

²³ *Com. Pleas Deed Enr. Trin.* 7 Edw. VI, m. 4 d. Cf. *Add. Chart.* 15230; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cclxxxix, no. 75.

²⁴ *Suss. Inq.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xiv), no. 376.

²⁵ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* i Hen. IV, pt. i, no. 11.

²⁶ *Add. MS.* 39488, fol. 38.

²⁷ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 23. This manor is always associated with that of Cassingham (in Ticehurst) and, although at first distinct, after 1700 is called Barnhurst *alias* Cassingham.

²⁸ *Add. MS.* 39488, fol. 39.

²⁹ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 23; *ibid.* xxx, nos. 115, 205.

³⁰ *Ibid.* xix, 23-4, 244.

³¹ *Ibid.* 24; *Add. MS.* 39488, fol. 39.

³² *Ferregge* (xiii cent.); *Farygge* (xvi cent.); *Farneridge* (xvii cent.).

³³ *Feet of F.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xxiii), no. 3208. It descended with Bugsell: *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xiv, no. 376.

³⁴ *Ibid.* no. 832.

³⁵ *Iregge* (xiii cent.); *Irugge* (xiii-xiv cent.); *Iwrugge* (xiv cent.); *Iredge* (xvi-xvii cent.).

³⁶ *Assize R.* 909, m. 27; *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, 221.

³⁷ *Ex inf.* Mr. S. P. Vivian, quoting *Inq. p.m.* of George Steven.

³⁸ *Feet of F.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix), 244. An unidentified manor of Bexwesell or Becketwesell, apparently in this parish, was conveyed by John Colepeper and Elizabeth his wife in 1561 to John Wildegos and Thomas Newington: *ibid.* 38.

³⁹ *Suss. Subs.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. x), 221, 333; *Feud. Aids*, v, 149, 151.

Sir John died in 1636 seised of this manor, leaving a grandson and heir Robert,¹ who died about 1649, leaving as co-heirs two aunts, Cordelia wife of William Boys, and Grace, unmarried, and Annesley Fowle, son of a third aunt, Anne, who had married Sir John Fowle.²

In 1649 William Boys and Cordelia his wife, and Grace Wildegos, gentlewoman, conveyed two parts of the manor to Annesley Fowle,³ elder son of Sir John. On the death of Annesley in 1656 his younger brother Robert succeeded. In 1684 Walter Roberts and Lucy (Fowle)⁴ his wife conveyed this manor, with the rectory of Salehurst, to Edward Milles.⁵ Subsequently it evidently came into the hands of five co-heirs, as in 1699 George Olliver and Mary his wife, John Fowle and Dorothy his wife, John Thorpe and Mary his wife, Henry Adman and Cecily his wife, and Elizabeth Shindler widow, conveyed the manor and all tithes to William Peckham.⁶ His son William Peckham made a new front to the house 1717. His son William was succeeded in 1737 by a son George,⁷ on whose death without issue the property passed in 1788 to John Micklethwait, who married in 1756 Elizabeth Peckham, granddaughter of William Peckham the elder.⁸ In 1835 it was the property and residence of S. B. Peckham Micklethwait.⁹ In 1894 George Nathaniel Micklethwait conveyed it to his grandnephew Capt. D. G. L'Estrange Astley, who sold it in 1909,¹⁰ by which time the property had become divided up.

The manor of *ROBERTSBRIDGE*¹¹ probably developed round a bridge built by Robert de St. Martin where the high road from Hastings to Tonbridge crosses the Rother.¹² It was held by the Abbot of Robertsbridge as one fee of the honour of Hastings,¹³ until the Dissolution; thereafter in chief.

After the surrender of the abbey in April 1538¹⁴ the site and demesnes, with the rectory of Salehurst and the abbey's manors in that parish, were granted in 1539 in tail male to Sir William Sidney and Agnes his wife,¹⁵ although Ralph Sadler had taken possession.¹⁶ Later this was changed to a grant in fee simple that included the advowson of the vicarage. With the advowson (q.v.) the manor descended to Viscount Lisle.¹⁷ He was created Earl of Leicester in 1618, having previously inherited the lands of the Dudleys, and died seised of this property in 1627.¹⁸ His descendants the Earls of Leicester held the site and manor until the early 18th century. John Sambrook of London leased the mes-



SIDNEY. Or a phœon azure.

suage here called the 'Seven Stars' in 1722¹⁹ and in 1728 joined with James Earl of Leicester in conveying the manor to Sir Thomas Webster, bart.²⁰ It then descended with Battle Abbey (q.v.)²¹ until the early 19th century when, before 1822, Sir Godfrey Vassal Webster alienated this property to Edward Allfrey. He was succeeded in 1873 by Henry Wells Allfrey and he in 1887 by Captain Henry Allfrey.²² Mrs. Andrews is now lady of the manor.²³

In January 1224-5 a grant was made to the abbot of an annual three-days fair on 14 to 16 August and a weekly market on Fridays.²⁴ Because it was to the damage of neighbouring markets, the market was cancelled next month;²⁵ but in 1253 the king granted, with free warren in all the abbey demesnes, a weekly market on Mondays and a three-days fair yearly on 14 September, a grant confirmed by succeeding kings with other liberties.²⁶ After the alteration of the calendar in 1752 the date became 25 September,²⁷ when it is still held. The abbot in 1274 and 1279²⁸ claimed a court for all his tenants, gallows, amends of the assize of bread and ale, and other extensive liberties. Indeed 'for the last 20 years' the abbey had separated itself from the hundred; and a 'hundred of Robertsbridge' developed. In 1377 the Earl of Richmond confirmed all the abbey's franchises, especially their hundred court of Robertsbridge for their free and bond tenants of Todehurst, Hothleghe, and Peplesham.²⁹ Court leet, view of frankpledge, &c., were included in the grants to the Sidneys, and 15th- to 17th-century court rolls are preserved.³⁰ Still in 1752 the lord of the manor possessed the hundred of Robertsbridge.³¹ The borough of Robertsbridge is mentioned in 1274;³² and in 1470 there were five 'borowes' in the 'manor' (i.e. the hundred), Robertsbridge being one, 'Farlegh', 'Hodleghe', 'Peryfield' in Northiam, and 'Strelfelde' the others, while 'Glasye Borowe' and 'Holmesherst' were also parcels of this manor, as was once Pebsham in Bexhill.³³

A manor of *TODEHURST* in this parish belonged to the abbey in 1338, by grant of Maud daughter of Ingelram de Fressenville and her husband Rainald de Meinieres.³⁴ The abbey held it in 1469 as a quarter fee,³⁵ but at the Dissolution it was presumably absorbed into the main manor.

The fee of *WIGSELL* [Wikeshale, Wikeshulle (xii cent.); Wiggesell, Wygeshull (xiii, xiv cent.)] was in the hands of the Count of Eu in 1166,³⁶ but, like Ore (q.v.), by 1320 it was a member of the Earl of Hereford's honour of Pleshey,³⁷ Essex, but had reverted before 1469 to the honour of Hastings.³⁸

In 1166 William de Wigsell held 1 knight's fee of the Count of Eu, and by 1210 had been succeeded by

¹ *Inq. p.m.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xiv), nos. 1098-9.

² Bodiam Ct. R. in B.M.; *Visit. of Kent* (Harl. Soc.), 22; *Visit. of Suss.* (Harl. Soc.), 209, where they are erroneously said to be sisters of Robert. A fourth sister, Audrey, mentioned in the visitations as wife of Sir Anthony May, had died without issue: *Visit. of Suss.* 106.

³ *Feet of F.* loc. cit.

⁴ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* vi, 82.

⁵ *Feet of F.* loc. cit.

⁶ Add. MS. 6344, col. 655.

⁷ Hodson, op. cit. 107.

⁸ Horsfield, *Sussex*, 580-1.

⁹ Hodson, loc. cit.

¹⁰ Hodson, loc. cit.

¹¹ Pons Roberti (xii cent. on); Pount Robert (xiv cent.); Robartesbregge, Rotherdisbrigge (xv cent.); Rotherbridge (xvii

cent.).

¹² Dawson, *Hastings Castle*, ii, 411.

¹³ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, no. 1858.

¹⁴ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiii (1), 776.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* xiv (1) g. 906 (7).

¹⁶ *Ibid.* (2), App. 20.

¹⁷ *Feet of F.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xx), pp. 370-1; *Suss. Inq.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xiv), no. 897.

¹⁸ Chan. *Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccccl, no. 102.

¹⁹ Thorpe, *Mun. of Battle Abbey*, 173.

²⁰ *Feet of F.* loc. cit.

²¹ Thorpe, *Mun. of Battle Abbey*, 176-80.

²² Hodson, op. cit. 35.

²³ Kelly 1930.

²⁴ *Cal. Rot. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 14b.

²⁵ *Ibid.* 16.

²⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1461-7, pp. 407-8; *Plac. de quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 759-60.

²⁷ Hodson, op. cit. 12.

²⁸ *Hund. R.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 216-18; *Plac. de quo Warr.* loc. cit.

²⁹ *Cal. Pat.* 1391-6, p. 640.

³⁰ *Cal. Robertsbridge Chart.* 152; *Cal. Ashburnham Docts.* (Lewes), i, nos. 430, 575.

³¹ Thorpe, *Mun. of Battle Abbey*, 180.

³² *Hund. R.* loc. cit.

³³ Hodson, op. cit. 34, q.v. for the situation of these boroughs.

³⁴ *Cal. Robertsbridge Chart.* p. 151; *ibid.* no. 11.

³⁵ Rentals and Surveys (P.R.O.), 658.

³⁶ *Red Bk. of Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), 203.

³⁷ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, p. 103. The manor, however, was alleged in 1339 to pay 3s. castle-guard rent to Hastings: *ibid.* no. 1646.

³⁸ Rentals and Surveys (P.R.O.), 658.



SALEHURST.
SALEHURST CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST, 1781
(From a drawing in the Burrell Collections)

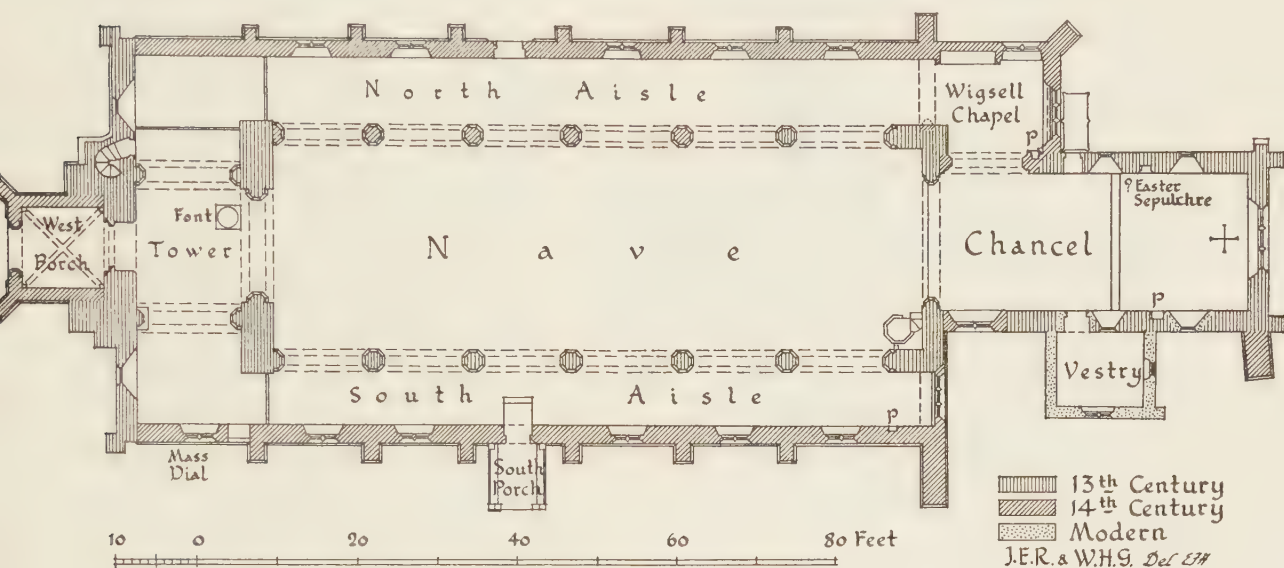
exception that the west walls were retained and are of the preceding century with a lancet in each and contemporary angle buttresses. At the south-east angle of the south aisle is a large buttress with coped top and two set-offs. The rest of the buttresses have two set-offs and are contemporary with the walls. The east window of the south aisle is a three-light under a square head. The lateral windows of the aisles, five on each side, are of two lights under a square head. The north and south doorways have continuous mouldings. In the south aisle is a trefoil-headed piscina recess with shelf, but the bowl has been destroyed. Let into the wall by the second window from the east of the south aisle is part of an altar tomb of Sussex marble with three

a niche. The parapet, which is embattled, has four shields on the west face with the following charges from north to south: ermine a chief quarterly (Peckham);¹ three bars and in chief three escallops; fretty (Echingham); a bend engrailed (Culpeper). The porch has a quadripartite vault with ribs springing from moulded corbels.

The south porch is of timber, massively constructed, with a plain arched entrance. The roof is of oak shingles.

Several of the aisle windows contain fragments of contemporary glass. In two of the south aisle windows are figures of birds resembling partridges, and other windows contain foliage.

PARISH CHURCH of ST. MARY SALEHURST



quatrefoils, containing blank shields, of 15th-century date. The aisles have plastered lean-to roofs.

The tower has massive angle buttresses which are continued up to the belfry stage as pilasters and thence to the embattled parapet as slight projections. The stair turret is at the north-east corner and stops short at the belfry stage; it has a shouldered doorway at the base. There is a large five-light window on the west with acutely pointed trefoiled heads. In the next stage there are plain lancets on the north, south, and west sides; then a trefoiled light on the north and south; and finally four two-light belfry windows with cinquefoiled heads under a square label. The tower opens to the nave by a lofty arch of two orders with semi-octagonal responds and moulded caps. On the north and south are similar arches opening to the aisles. The west doorway is a fine example of 13th-century design. The arch is round with well undercut mouldings of the roll and fillet type. The jambs have engaged shafts with moulded caps and bases. The porch has a doorway with semi-octagonal responds with moulded caps and an arch of two orders with a hood-moulding; above is

The font is of late-12th-century date and has a cup-shaped bowl² on a short round shaft, the base of which is encircled by a chain of salamanders. The other fittings are modern.

The tower contains eight bells, three by Pack and Chapman, 1771, one by Mears, 1847,³ and four by Taylor, 1906.

The plate consists of a chalice and paten, 1843, another chalice, 1864, a flagon, 1864, an alms-dish, 1845, all of silver, a pair of pewter flagons, 1705, and two pewter plates, 1843.⁴

The registers begin in 1575, but some nine or ten leaves of the second volume (beginning 25 March 1660) have been cut out.⁵

The church, recorded in 1086, *ADVOWSON* was given, with permission of his overlord Robert Count of Eu, to the college of St. Mary in Hastings castle by Reinbert the sheriff, who also gave the meadow of 'Salerta'.⁶ This was the origin of the prebend of Salehurst, to which were added the chapelries of Udimore and Mountfield.

In 1226 the advowson of the prebend was recovered

¹ This shield, originally blank, was only carved c. 1845: *Suss. N. & Q.* iv, 76.

² Among Richard Hussey's drawings in the Bodleian is one of this font, in 1830,

with the note: 'bowl re-worked and top moulding quite altered, 1865'.

³ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* iv, 213.

⁴ *Ibid.* xvi, 223.

⁵ *Ibid.* xxv, 152.

⁶ Dawson, *Hastings Castle*, 22-3; *Cat. Anct. D. D.* 1073.

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by Simon de Echingham, lord of the manor of Salehurst, against Alice Countess of Eu.¹ Subsequently Sir William de Echingham, in 1309, granted the advowsons of Salehurst, Udimore, and Mountfield to the Abbot of Robertsbridge, who thereby became a prebendary of Hastings. The story of this grant and the consequent litigation has already been told.²

On the dissolution of the monastery the rectory and advowson were granted in 1541 to Sir William Sidney³ and descended with the manor of Robertsbridge (q.v.) until 1608, when Robert Viscount Lisle conveyed the rectory and advowson to Thomas Colepeper⁴ of Wiggell (q.v.) who alienated the advowson to Thomas Lord, clerk, in 1621.⁵ From this time the rectory and

1810 to S. B. Peckham Micklethwaite, who in turn sold it in 1828 to Henry Winchester. By the latter's assigns it was sold in 1841 to John Hardy, M.P., great-grandfather of the present patron, Mr. Charles Hardy of Chilham Castle.¹⁷

In the middle of the 18th century there was a chapel in great decay at Iridge Place, with the arms of Wildegos in one window and those of Colepeper in another.¹⁸ The cellars at the George Inn are said to have been built from a chapel of St. Catherine believed to have stood by Chapel Spring, Piper's Lane.¹⁹ It has been surmised that this was the original site of Robertsbridge abbey.²⁰

John Cowper, by his will dated 27 July 1691, directed that if his children die without any lawful issue then all his estates, after his wife's death, be let,

or disposed of to pay £20 a year

CHARITIES thereof to an honest, faithful, and industrious woman, in

the town of Robertsbridge, to teach the children of poor men, women, and widows that shall be sent to her from the parishes of Salehurst, Etchingham, Ewhurst, Moundfield, or Brightling. The Charity Commissioners in 1819 state that 'no school has ever been established or money paid for that purpose and we doubt whether the charitable uses, contemplated by the testator, can ever take effect under this will'.

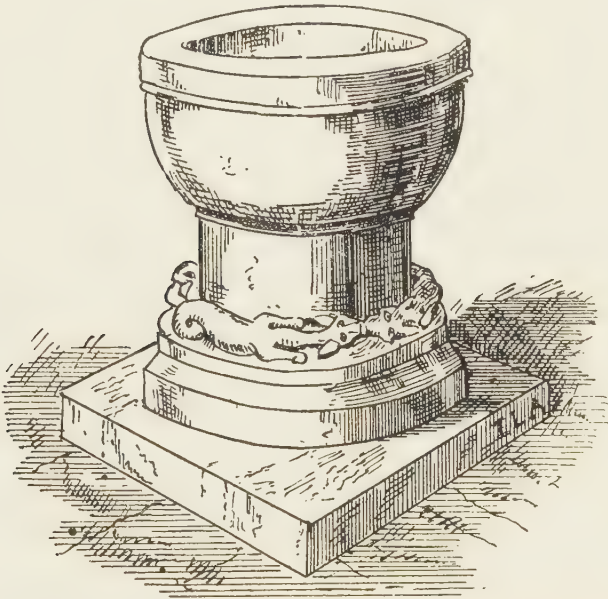
John Freeland's Charity, founded by will dated 30 April 1803, is regulated by a scheme of the Master of the Rolls dated 3 July 1855 which directs that the income be applied in the purchase of bread to be distributed at the parish church every Sunday to poor parishioners by 3 just men to be appointed triennially by 13 of the oldest parishioners, a sixpenny loaf being given to each person and no more than one loaf to any one family. The endowment produces annually £27.

The Wesleyan Chapel at Hurst Green, comprised in an indenture dated 30 July

1821, is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners of 8 January 1892 which appoints trustees and provides that the chapel shall be held upon the same trusts as 'The Wesleyan Chapel Model Deed'.

James Daws, by his will proved at Lewes on 31 May 1900, gave £150, the income to be applied towards the best interests of the poor of the parish. The body of trustees consists of 2 persons to be appointed by the Public Assistance Committee of East Sussex and one by the parish council of Salehurst. The endowment produces annually about £3 10s.

George Munn, by his will proved in P.C.C. on 12 July 1830, gave £500, the income to be applied towards support of the Charity School at Salehurst; in case, however, of gross mismanagement to be applied for the benefit of the Society for Propagating the



SALEHURST.

advowson descend separately. Thomas Lord and his son John, both vicars of Salehurst, were concerned with the advowson, the former presenting in 1640,⁶ having settled the right of future presentations on John in 1627 on his marriage with Priscilla, a daughter of Francis Norman,⁷ who had held the rectory. John Lord and Priscilla in 1677 conveyed the advowson to Zabulon Newington,⁸ who with Joseph Newington presented in 1681.⁹ Thomas Ashe presented in 1690¹⁰ and in 1728,¹¹ but by 1731 the patronage had come into the hands of the Frewen family. Thomas Frewen presented in 1731 and 1743.¹² Palacia Jenkin, patron in 1748,¹³ joined in a settlement of the advowson ten years later with her husband Edward Frewen,¹⁴ who presented in 1768.¹⁵ Then came John Jenkin (1772 and 1779) and Richard Barwell (1801),¹⁶ whose widow Catherine sold it in

¹ Maitland, *Bracton's Notebk.* no. 1745.

² *V.C.H. Sussex*, ii, 72.

³ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xvi, g. 1056(77).

⁴ *Feet of F.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xx), 384. Cf. *Recov. R. Hil.* 8 Jas. I, ro. 96.

⁵ *Add. Chs.* 62179-81.

⁶ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.). He was vicar 1628: *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1628-9, p. 367.

⁷ *Feet of F.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xx), 383; *Exch. Dep. Mich.* 15 Chas. II, no. 11; *Mich.* 24 Chas. II, no. 18; *Add. Ch.* 62182.

⁸ *Feet of F. Suss. Trin.* 29 Chas. II.

⁹ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.); *Suss. Arch. Coll.* iv, 221.

¹⁰ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.); cf. *Feet of F.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xx), 383. Thomas son of John Lord sold the advowson to Nathaniel Ashe in 1688, and Charles Lord sold it to Thomas Ashe in 1690: *Add. Chs.* 62184-5. For reference to these charters we are indebted to Mr. S. P. Vivian.

¹¹ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ *Feet of F.*, loc. cit.

¹⁵ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ *Add. MS.* 39469, fol. 256.

¹⁸ *Ibid.* 6344, fol. 655.

¹⁹ *Horsfield*, op. cit. i, 582-3.

²⁰ For change of site see *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 72.

Gospel. The Vicar of Salehurst and persons appointed from time to time by order of the Board of Education are trustees of the charity. The endowment produces about £13 13s. per annum.

Charles Pearce, by his will proved in London on 8 March 1882, gave to the vicar £300 New 3 per cent. Annuities, the income to be applied to charitable purposes connected with the parish. The endowment produces £7 10s. per annum, which is applied to providing boots for poor children and coal and groceries.

The Doreen Trust was founded by Robert Burgess by will proved at Lewes on 19 January 1927, whereby

he gave £100 to the vicar and churchwardens, the income to be applied for the poor of the parish, and he directed that the trust shall be called the Doreen Trust in memory of his daughter. The legacy, less duty, was invested and the dividends, amounting to some £3, are expended on coal and clothing for poor persons.

The Wesleyan Methodist Chapel at Robertsbridge, comprised in a deed dated 5 April 1817, is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners of 14 September 1865 which appoints trustees and provides that the chapel shall be held upon the same trusts as 'The Wesleyan Chapel Model Deed'.

THE HUNDRED OF NETHERFIELD

CONTAINING THE PARISHES OF

BRIGHTLING

MOUNTFIELD

DALLINGTON

PENHURST

NETHERFIELD HUNDRED, in 1086 called Hailesaltede or Ailesaltede Hundred, then included Brightling, Dallington, Mountfield, Netherfield, Whatlington, the part of Broomham which lies in Penhurst, a group of estates which had been in pre-Conquest times detached portions of Wilmington, Chalvington, and South Heighton, and part of Eyelid Farm in Ewhurst.¹ Penhurst itself seems to have been included in the assessment of Bexhill, except a small part lying in the liberty of Battle.² Before 1248 Netherfield had been curtailed to a half-hundred,³ Whatlington being transferred to Battle. The four 'boroughs' mentioned in the Subsidy Rolls of 1296 and later were Brightling, Penhurst, Netherfield, and Mountfield; Dallington was apparently included in Brightling, as the manor of Haselden appears under that heading in 1327.⁴ In the Muster Roll of the rape taken in 1539 the assessment of men-at-arms was as follows: Brightling 44, Mountfield 17, Netherfield 12, Penhurst 9. It was noted that there were 49 Frenchmen among the inhabitants.⁵ In the Hearth Tax return of 1662⁶ the same four villis are entered, with the addition of Dallington and a part of Catsfield, which is still included in this hundred.

About the middle of the 19th century the hamlet of Netherfield was also detached and added to the half-hundred of Battle.⁷

The descent of the hundred follows that of the rape, the Earl of Chichester being the present lord.⁸

¹ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 398, 399, 406a.

² *Ibid.* 394b.

³ Assize R. 909, m. 26.

⁴ *Subsidies* (Suss. Rec. Soc. x), 18, 206, 318.

⁵ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (1), 298.

⁶ Lay Subs. 258, no. 21.

⁷ *Lower, Sussex*, ii, 57.

⁸ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* vi, 57.

BRIGHTLING

Brislinga (xi cent.); Britling (xiii cent.).

The eastern part of the parish of Brightling is in Netherfield Hundred, while the western part is in that of Henhurst. Including the hamlets of Cackle Street and Oxleys Green, Brightling contains 4,901 acres of land, of which 8 are covered by water. The village stands high on the north-eastern slope of a short range of hills and many parts of the parish rise to a considerable height, the obelisk known as the 'Needle', which is 650 ft. above the ordnance datum, being one of the highest points in eastern Sussex. Two tributaries of the Rother, the Glottenham and Darwell streams, form the eastern boundary of the parish for a considerable distance. The road from Wood's Green to Robertsbridge, an offshoot of the main road from Hastings to Lewes, crosses the parish in a north-easterly direction.

Mr. Hayley, rector of Brightling, in a letter to Sir William Burrell written in 1775 says: 'The manor house of Brightling is said to be the corner house a little below the church when you turn round to go to Robertsbridge.'¹ A little way eastward from the churchyard is a house which in the rental of Socknersh manor has the name of Priest-house, which Mr. Hayley judges to have been 'the dwelling of a Chaplain or Mass Priest who was to celebrate daily in that chancel'; it was then the property of Rose Fuller.²

The church is situated to the south-west of the parish and to-day there is a good rectory, but in 1775 Mr. Hayley writes: 'There is no dwelling house on the glebe and it is supposed there never was any; the present rector and several of his predecessors have lived in a cottage built on the waste under a lease from the Pelhams.' At the same time he gives the following history of Rose Hill, now known as Brightling Park, at present the seat of T. P. Tew, esq., J.P.:

'The house over against Brightling Church has for many years been owned and occupied by persons of note, as Mr. Edward English who on the restoration of Charles II was a captain of the Trained Bands, . . . Mr. Edward Collins till 1697 when Mr. Thomas Fuller purchased it, and rebuilt the house and in 1705 put his nephew John Fuller in possession of it. He married Elizabeth daughter of Mr. Rose of Jamaica and from her gave it the name of Rose Hill; he died in 1745 . . . and was succeeded by his eldest son and heir John Fuller who encompassed the house with a park. He died in 1765 . . . and his next brother Rose Fuller who had been many years resident in Jamaica succeeded.'³

There was then a fine Observatory in the park, built by John Fuller, fitted with the most modern astronomical appliances. Brightling Place, about half a mile north-east of the church, is now the residence of Mrs. Haviland.

Socknersh Manor, near the northern edge of the parish, incorporates a 17th-century house of T-shaped plan, of which the earliest part, containing the hall, dates from c. 1610. Here the timber-framing of the external walls has fairly close vertical studding with brick nogging in varied herringbone and geometrical patterns. The doorway to the south side of the hall has

a gabled hood supported by two carved male figures, called by local tradition 'the baby-eaters'. The figures are those of bearded men seated crouching on scrolled pedestals, and nude except that one of them wears a ruff. Both have chains round their bodies, and one has his feet in the stocks; the other holds in his hands a block of wood; both are emaciated and have dismal expressions. The west doorway has a gabled hood supported by the same two figures, but here they are



BRIGHTLING: SOCKNERSH MANOR

plump and cheerful, and one holds the headless figure of a child in a long gown. Both doorways retain their original 17th-century doors; and a number of the early windows with moulded mullions remain. Internally, many of the rooms, including the hall, have moulded ceiling-beams, and several contain 17th-century paneling. The room above the hall has an elaborate overmantel, of which the frieze contains: (1) a crowned leopard rampant, (2) the Prince of Wales's feathers in a crown, (3) a crowned Tudor rose, (4) a unicorn. In another wide fire-place, with carved overmantel, on the ground floor is a fire-back bearing a tree with three crowns on its branches and the initials C.R.

There is said to be more woodland in Brightling than in any other parish of the same size in England. Rounden and Combe Woods are mentioned as early as the 12th century.⁴ Mill Wood probably took its

¹ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 324.

² Ibid.

³ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 135.

⁴ Lord de L'Isle and Dudley (Hist.

MSS. Com.), i, 49.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

name from the iron-mills of Socknersh. Mr. Hayley describes Brightling Down, part of which is in Dallington parish, as 'that large forest of waste land adjoining to Worth now called the Forest, not long ago overgrown with furze, but now much thinned by cutting down, . . . on the top of which for a long series of years has stood a windmill from which the prospect for extent of view, for proportion of horizon and variety of Landscape is scarcely to be equalled'.¹

Brightling was long famous for its iron-mills,² Socknersh Furnace being worked by the Collins family early in the 16th century. In 1550 Alexander Collins died possessed of 'one ironmill or ironworks called a furnace in Brightling', and his son Thomas was owner in 1574. These works were discontinued before 1664 but afterwards 'repaired and stocked upon account of the warre and . . . future encouragement'.³ They were carried on by the Fuller family from 1700 at Brightling Forge until the beginning of the 19th century. Glaziers Forge, a mile west of the Observatory, and Darvell Furnace on the border of this parish had important ironworks.

Very little corn is grown, but chicken breeding is extensively carried on. The soil is light, subsoil limestone.

Mr. Hayley, writing in 1775, says:⁴ 'The wake or feast of the dedication of the church is kept on the Monday after July 7th (the festival of the patron saint St. Thomas Becket) by the name of the fair, when the landlady of the public house bakes light cakes in the forenoon & puddings in the evening for sale which is all the extraordinary traffic of the day.' The fair had apparently ceased to be held by 1792.⁵

In 1086 *BRIGHTLING*, assessed at *MANORS* one hide, was held of the Count of Eu by a certain Robert, possibly the tenant of Ninfield.⁶ No record of a manor of Brightling is found after 1086. By the end of the 13th century land with manorial rights attached had come into the hands of the College of St. Mary in the Castle of Hastings as the foundation of the prebend of Brightling. In 1274 and 1291 it was valued at £13 6s. 8d.⁷ In 1278 Iter Bochard, canon and prebendary of the college, received a grant of free warren in his demesne lands of Brightling.⁸ From this date the *PREBENDAL MANOR* was held by prebendaries of Brightling, who were the rectors of the church and were charged with a payment of £1 3s. 4d. to the Dean of Hastings College, and 6s. 8d. to the steward.⁹ A prebend in the college of Hastings was granted to William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester, in 1362,¹⁰ and as arms resembling his are on a door of Brightling Church it has been said that it was this prebend. If so, he must have resigned almost immediately, as in November 1364 John de Bishopstone resigned the prebend of Brightling.¹¹

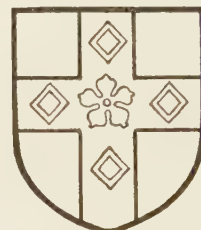
The manor remained attached to the prebendal rectory after Hastings College was dissolved in 1547. Among the rectors worthy of note is Anthony Rush,

who in 1561 had been appointed master of Canterbury Grammar School and in 1565 was made Canon of Windsor and rector of Brightling, which office he resigned in 1570 on becoming Dean of Chichester.¹² The rectory was subsequently held, with the vicarage of Bexhill, by Dr. Thomas Pye.¹³ In 1603 he writes: 'In my parish of Brightling the communicants are 195, in the parish there is no man or woman recusant or backwards in religion and there is noone that doth not receive the communion orderly.'¹⁴

In 1673 the advowson was acquired by William Burrell,¹⁵ who was himself rector from 1681 to 1708, and henceforth the living remained a family one.¹⁶ He was collateral ancestor of Sir William Burrell the great antiquary whose important collections towards a history of this county are in the British Museum. He settled the manor on his son William on his marriage with Honor, daughter of John Wotton of Malton, Cambs.¹⁷ This William Burrell was afterwards Chaplain in Ordinary to George I and II and vicar of Icklesham. He married secondly Elizabeth Noakes, and in 1709 he arranged that the estate should be sold to provide a jointure for Elizabeth after his death,¹⁸ but when he died in 1737 his widow, who survived him more than twenty years, preferred to keep the property in the family rather than realize her dowry.¹⁹ The rectory was held successively by her two sons William and John, both of whom died unmarried, and they were followed by the Rev. William Hayley, who had married Anne their only surviving



BURRELL. *Vert three scutcheons argent each having a border engrailed or.*



HAYLEY. *Or on a cross azure a cinquefoil between four voided lozenges or.*

sister.²⁰ Like his contemporary Sir William Burrell, he was a great antiquary and left to the nation valuable MS. collections relating to East Sussex. He died without issue in 1789, when the property and living passed to his nephew the Rev. William Burrell Hayley,²¹ whose son the Rev. John Burrell Hayley succeeded, and was followed by the Rev. Andrew Burrell Hayley, who died in 1893.

There are now no manorial rights attached to the rectory, the copyhold tenements having been enfranchised and the proceeds invested, forming a fund the interest of which is enjoyed by the rectors.²²

SOCKNERSH [Swokenerse (xii cent.); Sokenerse, Shokenersch (xiii and xiv cent.)] was held of the St. Legers and their successors, of the manor of Wartling, until the middle of the 15th century.²³ The possessions

¹ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 135.

² Straker, *Wealden Iron*, 301, 306.

³ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxxii, 19.

⁴ Add. MS. 5769, fol. 137.

⁵ *Roy. Com. Market Rights*, 208.

⁶ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 399b.

⁷ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* i, 953; *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 137.

⁸ Chart. R. 6 Edw. I, no. 71.

⁹ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 136.

¹⁰ *Cal. Pat.* 1361-4, p. 309.

¹¹ *Ibid.* 1364-7, p. 45.

¹² *Dict. Nat. Biog.* In 1566 he leased the manor for 21 years to Thomas Starye and his wife Elizabeth: Add. Ch. 29724.

¹³ His tenure of Brightling is not mentioned in *Dict. Nat. Biog.* or in Foster's *Alumni Oxon.*

¹⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* iv, 266.

¹⁵ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 137.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ *Ibid.* 136.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ *Ibid.*; Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 10 Geo. III.

²¹ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.); Lower, *Worthies of Sussex*, 154.

²² Information obtained from Mr. W. A. Haviland of Brightling Place.

²³ Feet of F. Suss. 20 Hen. III, no. 49; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iii, 191; Subs. R. 6 Hen. VI, 184, no. 74.

of Thomas Lord Hoo and Hastings were then divided between his daughters, and although Socknersh was held of Sir John Carew of Wartling, husband of Eleanor Hoo, and his son Richard in 1586,¹ after that time it was held of the manor of Dallington, which was owned by the Devenish family, descendants of Elizabeth Hoo, the other daughter, and subsequently passed to the Pelhams.²

Roger de Socknersh, son of William de St. Leger, held this fee in about 1195,³ and in 1235 William de Socknersh was holding land in Brightling, probably this manor,⁴ for in 1265 the manor of Socknersh, belonging to his son⁵ Roger, was seized by Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester.⁶ Roger⁷ had a son William,⁸ who was holding a whole knight's fee here in 1287.⁹ He left two daughters, Margery and Isabel,¹⁰ but had before his death granted this manor, with that of Mountfield (q.v.), to William de Echingham,¹¹ whose younger son Robert had married his daughter Margery.¹² William's elder son William de Echingham died seised of it in 1293, at which time it included 50 acres of arable land and 100 acres of heath and pasture.¹³ His son William in 1295 received a grant of free warren there.¹⁴ In 1315 he and his wife Eva conveyed Socknersh to Alan de Boxhull, who was holding it for a quarter fee in 1320 and died seised of it in 1325.¹⁵ His son Sir Alan died in 1381 and his widow married the Earl of Salisbury, who was holding the manor in 1399.¹⁶ He died in the following year and his widow held Socknersh until her death in 1424.¹⁷ Part of the manor was held in 1437 by Simon Bate,¹⁸ who acquired Hollingrove (q.v.) in that year. In 1469 this was held by his heirs, and another portion, said to have been obtained from Sir Thomas Echingham, by William Covert.¹⁹ The John Batys who was a person of some importance in the parish in 1476²⁰ was probably Simon's son.²¹ William Covert's son John died in possession of it in 1503, leaving three infant daughters.²² John Covert's estates passed to his cousin Richard,²³ but he appears to have sold Socknersh before 1517 to his wife's brother John Ashburnham.²⁴ From him it passed to John Colyn, or Collins, who died seised of it in 1537.²⁵ Alexander Colyn, son of John, died in 1550 leaving Socknersh by will to his wife Julia with reversion to his younger son Alexander.²⁶ On the death of Julia about 1565 the manor passed by the will of her son Alexander to his



COLLINS. *Gules a bend or and a border ermine with three martlets azure on the bend.*

brother Thomas.²⁷ He died in 1612 leaving a widow Mary, who, occupying the manor and 'paying tithes till the day of her death',²⁸ survived him six years. Thomas the eldest son inherited the estate. He was a staunch Presbyterian and Captain of the Militia, and being a Justice of the Peace celebrated many civil marriages at Brightling in 1653-7.²⁹ He was succeeded in 1667 by his nephew Thomas, son of his brother Increased.³⁰ Thomas died in 1709 and Henry, his only surviving son, the next owner of Socknersh,³¹ let the house in 1724 and removed to Hampshire. His son Henry, who died without issue in 1753,³² was the last member of this family to hold the property. He left the estate to his cousin George Luxford of Windmill Hill, Wartling, who by his will proved in 1759 devised a life interest in it to his brother Thomas Luxford, with remainder to his niece Mary Wilson, who had married Stephen Comyn.³³ In 1764 Thomas Luxford sold his interest in the manor to Stephen Comyn, who upon the death of Anne widow of George Luxford in 1780 became owner of the whole manor. In 1792 it was sold,³⁴ being apparently bought by the tenant John Holloway, since he, or his successor John, was the owner in 1835.³⁵ Miss Capel Loft was lady of the manor in 1905, and the present owner is Mrs. Odo Cross.

HOLLINGROVE [Hollyngrove (xiii cent.)] was early connected with the manor of Socknersh, to which it was adjacent. In the first half of the 13th century John de Hollyngrove was holding of William de Sokenerse, to whom it evidently reverted, for about 1270 William de Sokenerse, his grandson, leased these lands to Roger de Bromham.³⁶ In 1318 Hollingrove is found in the possession of Robert son of Adam de Melkhurst, who granted it in that year to his daughter Alice.³⁷ The manor is then lost sight of until 1437, when it was conveyed by Simon Turnour and Agnes his wife to Simon Bate,³⁸ of Socknersh (q.v.). From Simon it passed to his son John and then to John's sister Agnes, wife of Thomas Selwyn, whose son Thomas subsequently alleged that his uncle and guardian William Ashburnham had fraudulently deprived him of the manor.³⁹ William Ashburnham and Alice his wife were holding it in 1496,⁴⁰ and in that family it remained until 1601, when John Ashburnham conveyed it to Nicholas Lusher and Abraham Edwardes.⁴¹ Seven years later the manor was sold by them to Increased Collins,⁴² son of Thomas Collins, lord of the manor of Socknersh. Both manors descended to Thomas son of Increased, and subsequently remained with the same owners.⁴³

Writing in 1775 Sir William Burrell says: 'The manor house of Hollingrove is about a quarter of a mile east from the church. Its tenements lie some near

¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), xxiii, 261.

² Ibid. cxl, 67; ibid. cxliii, 29.

³ *Lord de l'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), i, 46.

⁴ Feet of F. Suss. 20 Hen. III, no. 49.

⁵ Add. Chart. 42637.

⁶ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* i, 914; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* vi, 216.

⁷ His widow Margery married Roger Doget: *Abbrev. Plac.* (Rec. Com.), 286.

⁸ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 325; Add. Chart. 42637.

⁹ Assize R. 921, m. 3d.

¹⁰ Add. MS. 39373, fol. 89. His widow Christine subsequently married John de Burne: ibid. fol. 190.

¹¹ Assize R. 1333, m. 4.

¹² Ibid. fol. 203.

¹³ Chan. Inq. p.m. 22 Edw. I, no. 40.

¹⁴ *Cal. Chart.* 1257-1300, p. 461.

¹⁵ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 9 Edw. II;

Cal. Inq. Misc. ii, 102; Chan. Inq. p.m.

19 Edw. II, no. 95.

¹⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. 1 Hen. IV, no. 11.

¹⁷ Ibid. 3 Hen. VI, no. 31.

¹⁸ Court Rolls in possession of the Suss. Arch. Trust.

¹⁹ Rentals and Surveys (P.R.O.), 658.

²⁰ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 567.

²¹ Early Chan. Proc. 903, no. 17; *Visit.*

of Suss. (Harl. Soc.), 108.

²² *Inqs.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xiv), 290 and

291.

²³ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* x, 60.

²⁴ Ct. R.; *Visit. of Suss.* (Harl. Soc.), 18.

²⁵ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxvii, 140.

²⁶ Ibid. cxl, 75; ibid. cxliii, 29.

²⁷ Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), xlvii, 54; ibid.

cv, 16; Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 16 Eliz.

²⁸ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 327.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

³² *Recov. R. Mich.* 29 Geo. II, 1755,

ro. 491; MSS. of Socknersh Manor,

Lewes.

³³ Ibid. Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 26 Geo.

III; *Recov. R. Hil.* 25 Geo. III, ro. 218.

³⁴ MSS. of Socknersh Manor, Lewes.

³⁵ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 566.

³⁶ Add. Chart. 42637.

³⁷ Ibid. 42639.

³⁸ Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 16 Hen. VI.

³⁹ Early Chan. Proc. 903, no. 17.

⁴⁰ Add. Chart. 42652.

⁴¹ Ibid. 42657.

⁴² *Suss. Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix), 220.

⁴³ Feet of F. Div. Co. East. 9 Anne;

Recov. R. Mich. 29 Geo. II, ro. 491;

Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 33 Geo. III.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

the church and the rest adjoining to or near the demesnes, of which one is in Dallington and one in Battle.¹

WERTHE [Worde, Werd (xvi cent.); Weard (xviii cent.)]. Henry Count of Eu confirmed to the abbey of Robertsbridge shortly after the foundation of that house in 1176 'Werthe with Combe beside my forest of Brightling',² which the monks had bought from John and Reinger, sons of Ingelram de Northye.³ This grant was confirmed by Richard I in 1199 as 'the land of Werthe and Cumb and Roundenn and Audewell'.⁴ No mention of manorial rights occurs until 1523, when a lease of the 'manor of Werde' was granted for 21 years to Thomas Berthar of Brightling.⁵ Another

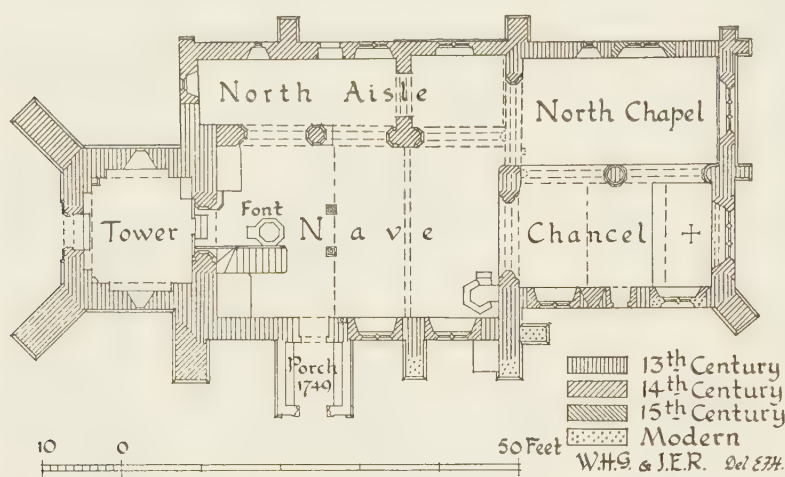
lot.¹² The Sussex property fell to James Brockman, and about 1745 he sold Werthe to John Fuller. On the death of the latter without issue in 1755 it passed to his brother Rose Fuller, who died unmarried and left it to his nephew John son of the Rev. Thomas Fuller, who was holding in 1790.¹³

COVEHURST and *COVELING* formed a small estate in Brightling which with other possessions of Bayham Abbey was granted to Wolsey's College.¹⁴ Subsequently, in 1532, they were granted to St. George's Chapel, Windsor,¹⁵ but did not remain for very long in that ownership. In 1583 Queen Elizabeth granted all the former lands of Bayham Abbey in Sus-

sex, including this estate, to Theophilus Adam and Robert his heir, who immediately sold it to George May.¹⁶ Anthony May married Joan, afterwards the wife of John Gyles, owner of the manors of Penhurst and Eatendon, and still later wife of John Busbridge,¹⁷ and Covehurst and Covelung are found in the possession of John Busbridge, who died in 1614 and was succeeded by his son John, then an infant.¹⁸ Further record of the estate is wanting, except that the owner in 1788 and 1790 was James Bourn.¹⁹

The church of *ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY* consists *CHURCH* of a chancel with a north chapel

PARISH CHURCH of ST THOMAS A BECKET BRIGHTLING



lease of the manor was granted in 1531 by Thomas Abbot of Robertsbridge to Richard Glydd of Brightling for 80 years at a rent of £6 13s. 4d.,⁶ and in 1604 Thomas Glydd was holding the manor of Robert Lord Lisle of Penshurst, who had inherited the estates of the abbey.⁷ This was followed in 1617-19 by the sale of the manor by Lord Lisle and his son Sir Robert Sidney to Robert Glydd, 'citizen and tallow chandler of London'.⁸ The estate then passed in succession to Richard and John Glydd, his son and grandson respectively, and in 1689 John left his property equally between his two sisters Anne, afterwards married to William Brockman, and Martha the wife of Ralph Drake.⁹ Ralph apparently survived his wife and died in 1694, when his moiety of the manor passed to his son Ralph, who left it on his death in 1731 to his sister Martha Griffiths, widow, Julius Deeds, husband of his sister Elizabeth,¹⁰ and heirs of the survivor. Anne Brockman died in 1730 leaving her moiety to her only surviving son James.¹¹ In 1732 he and Martha Griffiths agreed that the whole of the Surrey estates should be held by one of the devisees and the Sussex estates by the other, the matter to be determined by

of practically identical dimensions, nave, north aisle, south porch, and west tower. The material is mainly Hastings sandstone and the roofs are tiled. The plan is unusual and the development of the church presents several puzzling features. No part of the fabric appears to be earlier than the 13th century, to which period belong the lower story of the tower, the chancel, arcade, and north chapel, and possibly the south wall of the nave. In the 14th century the upper part of the tower was rebuilt, a north aisle with arcade of two bays added, and, probably at a slightly later date, the space between the east end of this aisle and the north chapel was thrown into the aisle and a doorway opened into the chapel. During this same century most of the windows and roofs were remodelled. In the 18th century the south porch was built and the buttresses on this side were enlarged,²⁰ the walls plastered internally, and a west gallery and other fittings introduced.

The chancel has a good 14th-century east window of three lights with reticulated tracery, the mullions of which have been renewed. On either side are traces of former lancets. In the south wall are two windows of two lights with trefoiled heads under a square label.

¹ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 249.

² Dugdale, *Mon.* v, 668.

³ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), i, 39.

⁴ Dugdale, *Mon.* v, 667. There are two farms in Brightling called Little and Great Worge, formerly called Upper and Nether Werthe. Combe and Rounden are names still known in Brightling.

⁵ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 492.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid. fol. 494.

⁸ *Recov. R. Mich.* 15 Jas. I, ro. 12; *Suss. Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xx), 472.

⁹ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 493.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid. fol. 494.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid. 495.

¹⁴ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, iv (1), 849, 898.

¹⁵ Ibid. v, 1351.

¹⁶ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 245.

¹⁷ *Suss. N. & Q.* iii, 61.

¹⁸ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccclvi, 114.

¹⁹ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 245.

²⁰ The fabric seems to have shown a tendency to slip towards the south-east.

Between them is a doorway with shields in the spandrels each charged with a chevron between three roundels. It is probably late-14th-century and contemporary with the windows. To the west of the doorway are traces of a blocked lancet. There is a large diagonal buttress at the south-east angle of uncertain date. Between the chancel and chapel is an arcade of two bays with arches of two orders and a single round column with moulded octagonal base and cap; the east respond is a half column while the western is a corbel. The chapel has an east window of three lights with reticulated tracery similar to that in the chancel; beneath it is a string-course. There are angle buttresses with two set-offs also of the 14th century. The old coping survives on the gable. In the north wall is a two-light 15th-century window with cinquefoiled heads under a square label, and farther west a 13th-century lancet. There is a wide depressed arch between the chapel and aisle of two orders with a continuous chamfer on the north and no caps. Above the arch on the east is a corbel. The chancel arch is 14th-century, of two orders with semi-octagonal responds and moulded caps.

In the east wall of the nave above the arch is a modern three-light window with un-cusped heads. The south wall retains two two-light late-14th-century windows with cinquefoiled heads under a square label; above are small quatrefoiled openings which are probably of the 18th century. The porch is dated 1749. It has a pointed arch with an entablature above, which is returned on the east and west sides. The angles have classical stone quoins and there is an embattled parapet. The inner doorway has a plain round head and is of uncertain date. Close to it, inside, is a stoup recess. On the north side of the nave is an arcade of two bays, having an octagonal column with moulded cap and base and semi-octagonal responds. East of this is a pier of masonry from which springs a third arch, of which the eastern member rests on a corbel above the arch into the chapel. The arches are of two orders.

Starting from the east there is first a two-light window with cinquefoiled heads under a square label, then a two-light trefoiled window. Next comes an uncusped lancet; if this is 13th-century it is probably a re-use. Between the second and third windows is a plain partially blocked doorway with continuous chamfer. The west window is a lancet with trefoiled head. There is an arch cut through the wall between the east and west portions of the aisle, it is of two orders and dies into the wall. Externally the north aisle is continuous with the north chapel, but differences in the masonry suggest that the section of wall between the chapel and the two western bays was built separately, and probably later. The line of the lean-to roof over this portion is visible on the east wall over the arch to the chapel. The west gable of the aisle retains its old coping.

The lower story of the tower, which is squat and

massive, is of the early 13th century with the exception of the arch opening to the nave and the west window, which are of 14th-century date. The diagonal buttresses at the west, too, which are of considerable projection, were refashioned and enlarged at the same time. They have gabled tops and two set-offs. There is a single angle buttress at the north-east and south-east corner, and these also are gabled, and the latter has three set-offs. The west doorway is of two orders with plain chamfered caps. The west window is of two lights with cinquefoiled heads under a square label. There are blocked lancets on the north and south. The belfry windows are of two plain chamfered lights and seem to be of 14th-century date, as is the embattled parapet. The tower arch is of two orders with semi-



BRIGHTLING CHURCH

octagonal responds having moulded caps and bases. The roofs of the chancel and nave are of the pointed wagon type, plastered below the rafters, a tie-beam in the nave being probably of the 18th century. The chapel and aisle have braced rafter roofs, of the 14th or 15th century. The font has a plain octagonal bowl, shaft, and base, and is probably 15th-century. In the lancet of the chapel are fragments of 14th-century stained glass. The following brasses¹ remain. On the west wall of the nave are the standing effigies of a civilian and wife, *c.* 1490; at the top of the slab are the emblems of St. John and St. Matthew, and at the base the matrices of the other two Evangelists. On the south wall of the chancel is the kneeling effigy of a boy, Thomas Pye, 1592, with a Latin and English inscription. On a slab on the east wall of the chapel is a brass inscription to Mary Collins, 1648, and in the aisle are inscriptions to Richard and Martha Glyd, 1618 and 1619.

There is 17th-century panelling round the east and south walls of the chancel. Over the chancel arch are 18th-century panels with the Commandments flanked by the Creed and Lord's Prayer. The west gallery, supported on two wooden columns and reached by a wooden staircase with turned baluster rail, and the plain wooden pulpit date from the 18th century.

The tower contains eight bells,² six by T. Mears, 1815, and two by T. Mears, 1818. The tenor has the following inscription: 'The five bells and a new treble added at the expense of John Fuller Esq. late member for the county Anno Domini 1815. In honour of the

¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxxvi, 91-7.

² *Ibid.* xvi, 201.

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illustrious Duke of Wellington, his last six victories are here recorded. 'T. Mears of London fecit.' The bells bear the following names: Waterloo (2), Talavera, Salamanca, Victoria, Pyrenees, Orthes, Toulouse. The peal was rehung in 1926.

The plate consists of a chalice of silver gilt, 1884; a paten of silver gilt, 1878; and a flagon of silver, 1885.¹

The registers begin in 1550.

The description of Brightling in *ADVOWSON* 1086 included a church,² afterwards attached to the prebend of Brightling belonging to the college of St. Mary in the Castle, Hastings.³ The advowson of the prebend with the rectory of Brightling belonged to the Counts of Eu until the forfeiture of their estates in the reign of Henry III. After this the king regularly presented until the dissolution of the college.⁴ The advowson was shortly afterwards granted to Sir Anthony Browne,⁵ in whose family the patronage remained until 1633, when Francis Viscount Montagu obtained licence to alienate it to William Relfe,⁶ after which it appears to have followed the descent of the prebendal manor (q.v.). Presentations were, however, made in 1681 by John Turner, and in 1708 by George Barnsley.⁷

Miss Hayley and Mrs. Beale are the present patrons.

John Bates, by his will dated 8 *CHARITIES* September 1476, ordered the feoffees of his lands to deliver to 18 of the 'saddest and discreetest' men of the parish certain lands, called Levetts, containing about 14 acres, to hold to the use of the church of Brightling for ever. The charity is administered by the rector and churchwardens. By an order of the Charity Commissioners of 24 April 1877 the land was granted on a lease of 40 years to Sir George Meyrick in consideration of £1,000, which was remitted to the official trustees and invested. The endowment now consists of the above-mentioned land and stock and yields about £70 yearly.

Jesse Gregson, by will dated in 1825, gave to the rector and churchwardens £200, the interest now amounting to about £7, to be distributed in bread every Sunday to the poor of the parish. The rector ex-officio and two persons appointed by the parish council are the trustees.

Frederick Henry Scott, by his will proved in London on 3 December 1918, bequeathed, upon the death of his wife, £500 to the rector and churchwardens, the income to be distributed to the deserving poor.

DALLINGTON

Dalintone (xi cent.).

Dallington is a small parish containing 1,910 acres of land, lying between Warbleton and Brightling. The road from Lewes to Hastings passes through the village, which stands on high ground on the western slope of a range of hills. A great part of the parish rises to a height of 500 ft., while no part is lower than 300 ft. Part of Brightling Down is in this parish and the Rev. William Hayley, writing in 1775, says: 'On an eminence of the part of the Down which is in Dallington . . . was heretofore set up Brightling Beacon whose light was seen by . . . those of Goudherst, Hawkherst, and Tenderden. The scite of it (which now only remains) has the appearance of a low artificial mount with a great hollow-ness in the top and about 30 yards in circumference at the base. It is called the Burgh or Browns burgh.'⁸

Ironworks were carried on in Dallington⁹ in the 16th century, when a furnace was worked by Sir Richard Baker. They were, however, discontinued before 1664.¹⁰ Two-thirds of the parish is pasture land, and there is a considerable amount of woodland. The soil is light, the subsoil clay and gravel.

Stream Farm, about $\frac{3}{8}$ miles SSW. of the church, is of 14th-century origin, incorporating one bay of a one-storied hall and, at its southern end, a solar wing. Early in the 17th century¹¹ the northern end of the house was rebuilt, a chimney-stack built in the remains of the original hall, and a first floor inserted. Later the building was cased in brick, in Flemish bond, with black headers. The interior has some exposed timber-framing, ceiling-beams and joists. The southern end of the original hall is marked by a 14th-century moulded beam at the level of the first floor to the solar wing. The first floor has some moulded panelling of later 17th-

century date; and the west wall of the solar has the original vertical studding. The roof to the hall retains one original bay, east of the chimney-stack, with two trusses with stop-chamfered cambered tie-beams and heavy, curved braces. The upper face of the tie-beams is morticed for king-posts and braces. The wall-posts supporting the tie-beams have curved braces.

Close to the exit from the churchyard is a small 15th-century hall house. The south wing, probably the solar, has been pulled down. The central chimney-stack and the first floor were inserted in the hall about 1600, and the roof has been rebuilt, two of the heavy, cambered tie-beams being retained. The west front, to the road, has exposed timber-framing, partly 17th-century repair. The overhang to the north wing is carried on the projecting ends of the ceiling-joists. There is an original doorway, now blocked, with a two-centred head. The north-west angle of the house has a large wedge-shaped corner-post with a moulded capping. The upper wall to the hall front is recessed, and the eaves from the north wing are continuous, carried on curved braces. The north wall also has an overhanging upper floor, carried on curved braces and projecting joist ends. At first-floor level is a blocked window; and the vertical posts to the timber-framing have diagonal struts. The interior has exposed timber-framing, with shaped wall-posts and moulded ceiling-beams. The fire-place has a wide opening, spanned by a cambered and chamfered lintol.

'Yew Arch', opposite the west end of the church, incorporates part of the framework and roof of a normal late-14th-century hall house with two-storied kitchen and solar wings. A first floor and a large chimney-stack were inserted in the hall late in the 16th century. The

¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lv, 209.

² *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 396b.

³ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 136.

⁴ *Cal. Pat.* 1340-3, p. 15; *ibid.* 420; *ibid.* 1350-4, p. 261.

⁵ Harl. MS. 4316, fol. 107.

⁶ *Recov. R. East.* 9 Chas. I. ro. 5.

⁷ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

⁸ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 135.

⁹ The site of the works is now in Ashburnham parish: Straker, *Wealden Iron*, 364.

¹⁰ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xviii, 15.

¹¹ In the open fire-place of the inserted chimney-stack is a fire-back with the Stuart arms and supporters, and the initials I.R. The hearth is also of iron and has a coronet and initial A (for Ashburnham).

house was refronted in brick in the 18th century, additions were made at the south end, and the overhanging upper floor to the south wall was underbuilt, one of the curved braces to this overhang being built into the new work. The fire-place on the north side of the chimney stack has a four-centred chamfered head in wood, carried on brick jambs. The first-floor fire-place is similar, and has an iron fire-back with three fleurs de lis and the date 1579. Immediately north of the chimney-stack is one original truss with a cambered and hollow-chamfered tie-beam, carried on shaped wall-posts and having large curved braces forming a high four-centred arch. The octagonal king-post is carried down by stops on to a square, moulded base, and has four-way braces. South of the stack a tie-beam and king-post with three-way braces marks the southern end of the hall.

Old Castle, west of the church, is built of local stone ashlar and brick. It dates from c. 1600 and has a central block with cross wings, but has been much enlarged and reconstructed. The interior has stop-chamfered ceiling-beams and reset 17th-century panelling on both floors, and there are some panelled doors of the same date.

Buckwell was transferred to Ashburnham by a Local Government Board Order of 24 March 1887, and by the same Order Gifford's Farm was transferred from Dallington to Brightling, and by Order 19,652 Hodgkins was added to Warbleton.

DALLINGTON was one of the manors *MANORS* granted to the Count of Eu¹ of which the overlordship followed the descent of the rape (q.v.). In Saxon times it had been assessed at 1 hide, when it was held by a man named Norman, but by the time of the Survey it was unassessed, half of it being afforested. The other half of the hide was then held by William² the tenant of Wartling (q.v.) with which manor it descended until 1475, when on the division of the family estates among the co-heirs of Thomas Lord Hoo and Hastings Dallington was allotted to Elizabeth the youngest daughter, who married first Sir Thomas Massingberd and secondly Sir John Devenish. The latter was holding it in 1482.³ Their son Richard died seised of the manor in 1534⁴ leaving a son Thomas⁵ whose son William in 1560, during the lifetime of his father, conveyed Dallington to Anthony Pelham⁶ of Buxted, afterwards of Laugh-ton. The latter granted it before 1567 to his son Herbert,⁷ who appears to have sold Dallington with Peple-sham and Cowden to his cousin Sir Thomas Pelham, who was holding the estate at his death in 1624.⁸ Henceforth it follows the descent of the manor of Cowden in Foxearle Hundred (q.v.). Lady Catherine Ashburnham is the present lady of the manor.

In 1265 Geoffrey de St. Leger was granted free warren in Dallington⁹ and in 1301 the grant was repeated to his son John.¹⁰ In 1337 Sir Thomas Hoo was

granted the right to hold a fair yearly at his manor of Dallington on the vigil, day, and morrow of St. Margaret the Virgin (July 19-21).¹¹ The two latter grants were confirmed to Isabel widow of Sir Thomas Hoo and her heirs in 1391.¹² Hayley in 1776 says: 'This (Dallington) fair has never been known to have been used but another has of late years been established . . . on May 24th.'¹³ This had apparently ceased to be held before 1792.¹⁴

The manor of *HAZELDEN* [Hesildenne (xiii cent.)], had been granted to Hastings Priory before 1291.¹⁵ In 1538 the reversion of a lease made to Sir George West of the estates of the priory including the manor of Hazelden was granted to Sir John Baker, Attorney-General and Speaker of the House of Commons.¹⁶ He died seised of it in 1558 and his son Richard¹⁷ was still holding it in 1573.¹⁸ Sir Thomas Baker, second son of Richard, was seised of it in 1605.¹⁹ In 1647 Thomas Baker and Alice his wife sold it to Benjamin Scarlett,²⁰ who eight years later together with his son Thomas conveyed it to Joan Giles²¹ widow, a portion of the estate being secured to the children of Benjamin Scarlett until their coming of age, with reversion to Joan.²² Joan Giles in the same year married John Busbridge and with him conveyed Hazelden to her son Anthony May.²³ In 1663 a small portion of the manor, held by Thomas Taylor and Mary, Elizabeth Newman widow, and George Duffield and Anne, was conveyed to Francis Scarlett,²⁴ and in 1669-70 Anthony May conveyed the main part of the manor to Thomas Scarlett,²⁵ so that the whole estate was once more held by that family. By 1689 it had passed into the hands of John, Lord Ashburnham,²⁶ in whose family it has since descended.²⁷

Half the hide in Dallington was, as already mentioned, retained by the Count of Eu in 1086 as forest. This formed the nucleus of the *FOREST* of Dallington, or, as it is also called, of Brightling, Worth, or Burwash. It followed the descent of the manor of Crowhurst until the end of the 16th century, and its history has already been traced.²⁸

The church of *ST. GILES* consists of *CHURCH* chancel, 18 ft. by 15 ft.; north vestry, 10 ft. by 8 ft.; nave, 51 ft. by 24 ft. 9 in.; north aisle, 50 ft. by 14 ft.; wooden south porch, 10 ft. 9 in. by 11 ft. 2 in., and west tower with stone spire, 11 ft. 6 in. by 11 ft. With the exception of the tower and spire the whole church was rebuilt in 1864 in the 14th-century style. The roofs are tiled.

The tower and spire date from the beginning of the 16th century. The tower has angle buttresses with two set-offs, the upper parts of which are renewed.



BAKER. *Azure three swans' heads argent their beaks gules.*

¹ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 399.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Add. Chart.* 31518.

⁴ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lxvii, 108.

⁵ *Ibid.* lxvii, 140.

⁶ *Feet of F. Suss. East.* 2 Eliz.

⁷ *Add. Chart.* 32372; *Inqs.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. iii), 88.

⁸ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccccxvii, 41.

⁹ *Cal. Chart. R.* ii, 54.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* iii, 23.

¹¹ *Ibid.* iv, 431.

¹² *Cal. Pat.* 1388-92, p. 403.

¹³ *Add. MS.* 5679, fol. 287.

¹⁴ *Roy. Com. Market Rights*, 208.

¹⁵ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 141a.

¹⁶ *Cf. Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiii, 176.

¹⁷ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiii (1), g 646,

(34).

¹⁸ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cxxiii, 199.

¹⁹ *Cal. Ashburnham Doc.* i (Lewes), no.

641.

²⁰ *Suss. Inqs.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xxxiii), 240.

²¹ *Feet of F. Suss. Mich.* 23 Chas. I.

²² *Ibid.* East. 1655.

²³ *Cal. Ashburnham Doc.* ii (Lewes),

735.

²⁴ *Ibid.* nos. 738 and 739; *Feet of F.*

Suss. Mich. 1655.

²⁵ *Ibid.* East. 15 Chas. II.

²⁶ *Cal. Ashburnham Doc.* ii (Lewes),

nos. 883, 901-5; *Recov. R. Hil.* 22 & 23

Chas. II, ro. 142; *Close R.* 23 Chas. II,

pt. i, m. 32.

²⁷ *Ct. Rolls* in possession of the lord of

the manor.

²⁸ *Horsfield, Sussex*, i, 568; *Lower,*

Sussex, i, 129.

²⁹ *V.C.H. Suss.* ii, 324-5.

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There is a stair turret at the north-east rising above the embattled parapet with a conical cap. The west doorway has a depressed arch under a square label with Tudor roses in each spandrel, and above is a window of three lights. There are belfry windows of two cinquefoiled lights under a square head on three sides, that on the north being partly blocked by the stair turret; there is also a small square-headed opening beneath the north belfry window. The tower arch is of two orders and has semi-octagonal responds with moulded caps. The beams of the tower ceiling are ancient. On the west of the tower are the following devices: on the north and south battlements a buckle (the Pelham badge), on the north centre battlement a shield with a tau cross,¹ and on the south centre battlement a shield with three pelicans (Pelham). The font is of the early 16th century with an octagonal bowl with concave sides, an octagonal stem with slightly concave sides and engaged shafts, and a concave-sided base. On the sides of the bowl are the following devices: east face, shield of three fleurs de lis;² north face, shield of three escallops; west face, blank shield; south face, shield with chevron; the following badges occur on the remaining sides: south-east face, an escallop within two interlaced triangles; north-west, a fleur de lis; north-east, a broken sprig bearing an upright leaf; south-west, a rose.

There are six bells in the tower, five being cast in 1904 and a sixth added. Previous to this date there were three of 1737, and the other two dated from 1808 and 1853 respectively.³

The plate consists of a communion cup of silver, 1710, with a paten cover of the same date; a silver paten on a foot, 1692; and a pewter flagon bought by the parish in 1868.⁴ The registers begin in 1643.

The church of Dallington with the *ADVOWSON* land belonging to it formed part of the endowment of the prebend of Theobald attached to the church of St. Mary in the Castle, Hastings.⁵ Some time before 1237 it was appropriated

to Hastings Priory, as in that year it was confirmed to that house by Ralph Neville, Bishop of Chichester.⁶ In 1291 the church was assessed at £5⁷ but in 1319 the vicarage was removed from the taxation rolls on account of the poverty of the benefice.⁸ By 1535 its value had risen to £8⁹ and in 1538 after the dissolution of the monastery the advowson was granted with the New Priory of Hastings to Sir John Baker¹⁰ whose grandson Sir Thomas Baker died seised of it in 1625.¹¹ Later in the century it was acquired by Sir John Hamner, who in 1669–70 sold it to John Ashburnham,¹² and in that family it remained¹³ until early in this century, the Hon. John Ashburnham being the patron in 1909. The patronage is now held by the Bishop of Chichester.

In 1643 the vicarage of Dallington was sequestered by the House of Commons as Zachariah Tuttonham, vicar of the parish church, 'hade greatly neglected his cure sometimes deserting the same for two months without any supply and has spoken very disgracefully of the Earl of Essex and expressed general malignity against the Parliament'.¹⁴

Eleanor Madgwick. In the Parliamentary Returns of 1786 it is stated that Eleanor Madgwick by her will, the date of which is unknown, left land for providing a bible for a poor person. It appears that a bible was given out of the proceeds of a farm in the parish called Giffords till about 1800. This charity appears to be lost.

John Earl of Ashburnham, by codicil to his will dated 13 June 1810, gave to the several parishes of Ashburnham, Catsfield, Dallington, and Penhurst £100 each, to be paid by his executor [his eldest son] after his decease. His executor refused payment on the ground that the legacies were void from uncertainty, but as a voluntary gift distributed to the poor of the several parishes for articles of clothing, &c., £5 per annum. This charity appears to be lost.

MOUNTFIELD

Montifelle (xi cent.); Mundefelde (xiii cent.); Monefeld (xvi cent.).

Mountfield parish lies directly north of Battle and contains 3,925 acres. The road from Hastings to London passes through the eastern part of the parish and the Glottenham stream forms its northern boundary for some distance. The parish is hilly, falling downward towards the north, the highest point reached being near Sneps Wood in the extreme south-west. Nearly two-thirds of the parish is woodland, Crowhurst, Upper Bucksteep, Orchard, and Eatendon Woods forming a large tract more than a mile in extent. Vinehall,¹⁵ a large estate consisting of 400 acres, is the seat of Lady Ashton of Hyde. Mountfield Court is in the centre of a park of 110 acres from which very wide views can be obtained. It is an 18th-century house built of brick, with dressings of rubbed brick. The south front is in five bays, marked by stone pilasters, with a stone string between each floor, and a moulded plinth

and cornice, also of stone. The central block has a staircase of 1730, with moulded and twisted balusters, cut string, moulded hand-rail, and panelled dado. Some of the rooms have moulded panellings, and a fire-place in the west wing has the initials J^NL 1762 (for Nicholl).

'The Banks', about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile west of the church, appears to be of early-17th-century origin and to have had a T-shaped plan, but has been very much modernized. The north front to the staircase hall is gabled, and has five-light windows to the ground and first floors with moulded mullions and jambs. The gable has carved barge-boards and a shaped post at the apex. To the west is a modern porch, but the original wall on each side of it has timber-framing in rectangular panels. The interior retains some stop-chamfered ceiling-beams and joists. At the south end of the original south wing is a large fire-place with a triangular-headed opening, and above is a moulded bressummer with carved

¹ Probably for T(homas) Pelham).

² Possibly for Haremere.

³ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 201.

⁴ *Ibid.* lv, 310.

⁵ *Ibid.* xiii, 137.

⁶ *Ibid.* 156.

⁷ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 137b.

⁸ *Cal. Close*, 1318–23, p. 74.

⁹ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), i, 343.

¹⁰ *Pat.* 29 Hen. VIII, pt. 5, m. 18.

¹¹ *W. and L. Inq.* xlii, no. 105; *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

¹² *Cal. Ashburnham Doc.* ii (Lewes), no. 891.

¹³ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

¹⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxxvi, 149.

¹⁵ In 1870 this mansion possessed 'every appliance of luxury including gas made on the spot': *Lower, Sussex*, ii, 54.

grotesque faces at each end, and big supporting corbels below with shields with the monogram *J*.

There is a large bed of gypsum in the parish and works for the manufacture of plaster of Paris and cement are carried on.¹ The soil is loamy, subsoil sandy gravel, and much of the land is under permanent grass.

MOUNTFIELD, which was held by **MANORS** Goda before the Conquest, was granted to the Count of Eu, and the overlordship follows the descent of the rape. It was held of the Count by Reinbert, ancestor of the family of Echingham,² and the manor reappears in the possession of that family at the end of the 13th century. In the meantime, however, it was held for a while by the family of de Socknersh, with the manor of that name, for in 1265 Earl Gilbert of Gloucester seized Mountfield, belonging to Roger de Socknersh.³ Roger's son William, whose daughter married Robert de Echingham,⁴ granted the manor to Robert's father William de Echingham in exchange for other land,⁵ and his son William de Echingham received a grant of free warren there in 1295.⁶

In 1316 the reversion of the manor was granted by William de Echingham in payment of his debts to Nicholas de la Beche⁷ and although apparently before the death of William in 1326⁸ Nicholas gave up to Robert, brother and heir of William, all his claim in the manor of Mountfield, and also agreed to remit William's debts, yet on the death of Robert⁹ in 1328 he successfully claimed a moiety of his lands in satisfaction of a remaining debt of 282 marks.¹⁰ Mountfield then descended with the manor of Etchingham (q.v.) until 1622, when it was sold by William Tyrwhitt to Henry English,¹¹ who was holding jointly with his wife Persis in 1644.¹² In 1649 they conveyed it to their son Henry,¹³ and he sold it about 1662 to John Nicholl, who in that year paid a castle-guard rent of 13s. 6d. for the manor.¹⁴ It remained in this family until 1786, when John Nicholl was holding it.¹⁵ His widow married the Rev. Richard Rideout, and after her death it descended to Samuel Nicholl, who was in possession in 1835.¹⁶ A few years before 1869 it was acquired from the Nicholls by Edward Christopher Egerton,¹⁷ from whom it passed in that year to his son Charles Augustus Egerton. The latter died in 1912, and after the death of his eldest son Edward in 1916, in the war, Mountfield passed to the present owner, Lt.-Com. Hugh Sydney Egerton, D.S.C., D.L., J.P.¹⁸

Alvred de St. Martin granted to Walter de Ferne, in fee, the 'land of *FERNE*', which Elwyn father of William held.¹⁹ Numerous members of the family of de Ferne are mentioned during the next two centuries,²⁰ and the manor appears to have remained in their hands

until it passed by inheritance to the family of de Legh. In 1370 William Frere of Whatlington released to Thomas de Legh certain lands which had descended to John de Ferne,²¹ and in 1466 Richard Legh received full seisin of the manor²² (then first referred to as such). In 1479 Richard Legh mortgaged the manor to Richard Colepeper of Goudherst, Kent, for 42 marks,²³ and this was apparently followed by the foreclosure of the mortgage as the manor was left by Richard Colepeper to Elizabeth widow of Nicholas Culpeper for life, with remainder to her son Richard.²⁴ The latter sold the manor in 1525 to John Michelbourne for £10²⁵ and he conveyed it in 1541 to trustees to hold to his use during his life and for ten years after his death, and then to the use of his son Nicholas.²⁶ It would, however, appear to have passed successively to John Michelbourne of Westmeston and to his sons Edward and John,²⁷ the latter of whom left two daughters who before 1604 inherited moieties of the property; one of them married Richard Dunke and the other Launcelot Davis.²⁸ The latter moiety remained in the Davis family²⁹ until it was sold, in 1814, by Sir John Brewer Davis to Tilden Smith.³⁰ He, or his descendant of the same name, sold the half manor shortly before 1870 to W. R. Adamson.³¹

The other moiety passed from Richard to John Dunke, and subsequently to Bryant Dunke, who sold it before 1743 to Thomas Couchman.³² The latter left it by will to Diana and Anna Brain,³³ of whom Diana died before 1771, and Anna subsequently married George French. In 1782 and 1786 the moiety was held by Anna French and Dorothea Brayne Benger, presumably daughter of Diana. In 1787 the property was sold at Garraway's Coffee House, Change Alley, to Mr. De Laet of Poterells, Hertford, for £3,210, but by 1790 it had been acquired by John Earl of Ashburnham.³⁴

EATENDON (Ityntone, xiv and xv cent.; Ittinton, Ittington, xvii cent.) appears as a part fee held of John of Brittany,³⁵ and the overlordship follows the descent of the rape. The manor was held early in the 13th century by William de Willicheres, probably a descendant of the Humphrey de Willecheres who held 7 fees of the Count of Eu in 1166,³⁶ but it afterwards came to the Hastings family. Free warren there was granted to Matthew de Hastings in 1271, and claimed by his son William in 1288.³⁷ With the other estates of the family Eatendon passed to Thomas de Hastings, who was holding it in 1320,³⁸ and later to the Finch family. For the next three centuries it was held together with Netherfield (q.v.) by the Finches,³⁹ until in 1650 Eatendon was sold by Heneage Earl of Winchelsea to Anthony Stapeley and John Giles.⁴⁰ The latter

¹ *Suss. County Mag.* x, 478-83.

² *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 398b, 380.

³ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* i, no. 916.

⁴ Add. MS. 39373, fol. 203.

⁵ *Ibid.* fol. 190.

⁶ *Cal. Chart.* 1257-1300, p. 461.

⁷ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 10 Edw. II;

Cal. Close, 1327-30, p. 95.

⁸ Chan. Inq. p.m. 20 Edw. II, no. 50.

⁹ *Ibid.* Cf. Extents for Debts, file 3.

¹⁰ Hall, *Echingham of Echingham*, 10.

¹¹ Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 20 Jas. I.

¹² *Ibid.* Mich. 20 Chas. I.

¹³ *Ibid.* Trin. 1649.

¹⁴ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 25.

¹⁵ Feet of F. Trin. Suss. 12 Anne;

Recov. R. Trin. 16 Geo. II, ro. 193;

Add. MS. 5680, fol. 25.

¹⁶ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 563.

¹⁷ Lower, *Sussex*, ii, 54.

¹⁸ Burke, *Landed Gentry*.

¹⁹ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), i, 55.

²⁰ *Ibid.* 64, 103, 116, 119, 143; Add. Chart. 5647-8, 5653.

²¹ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 405.

²² Add. Chart. 5667.

²³ *Ibid.* 5299.

²⁴ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 405.

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ Add. Chart. 5675.

²⁷ Recov. R. Mich. Eliz. rot. 427; Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 10 Eliz.; Cal. Ashburnham Doc. i, nos. 249, 261, 264.

²⁸ Feet of F. Suss. East. 2 Jas. I.

²⁹ Ct. Books of Ferne, Lewes.

³⁰ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix), 164.

³¹ Lower, *Sussex*, ii, 54. Lower identifies the manor with Vinehall, and says that Mr. Adamson renamed it Rushton Park.

³² Ct. Books of Ferne, Lewes.

³³ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 405.

³⁴ *Ibid.*; Ct. Books of Ferne, Lewes.

³⁵ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 102.

³⁶ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 587; *Red Bk. Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), i, 202.

³⁷ *Cal. Chart. R.* ii, 169; Assize R. 924, m. 46.

³⁸ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 102.

³⁹ Early Chan. Proc. xxv, 182; *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix), 237; Cal. Ashburnham Doc. i (Lewes), no. 517.

⁴⁰ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix), 237.

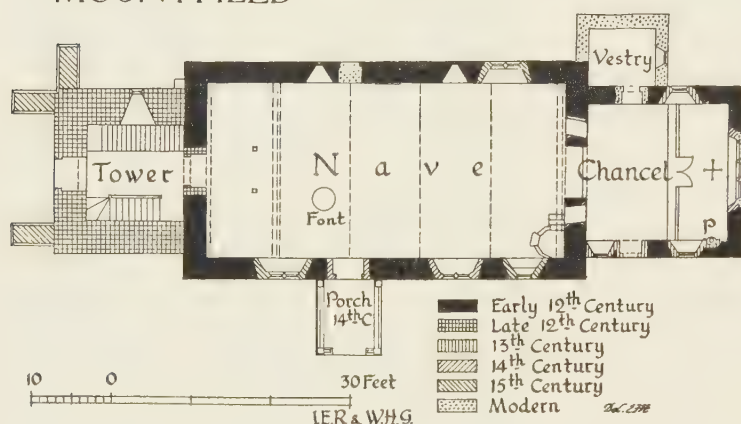
A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

seems to have come into sole possession of the manor a little later, and it subsequently descended with the manor of Penhurst (q.v.), being conveyed by Sir Thomas Dyke to William Ashburnham in 1678.¹

The church of *ALL SAINTS* consists *CHURCH* of chancel, north vestry, nave, south porch, and west tower with shingled spire of local type. The roofs of the nave and chancel are tiled and the porch shingled. The unbuttressed chancel and nave belong to the first half of the 12th century. At the end of the same century the tower was added, the west wall of the nave being retained. The porch was added in the second half of the 14th century and the vestry is modern.

The chancel has a modern three-light east window

PARISH CHURCH of ALL SAINTS MOUNTFIELD



of 14th-century character. In the south wall is a 13th-century lancet, to the west of which is a very plain doorway of uncertain date, and beyond this a lancet similar to the other, but smaller. There is also a 13th-century lancet in the north wall and a modern doorway to the vestry. In the south wall is a 13th-century piscina with trefoiled head and moulded semicircular capitals; the basin is partly renewed. The original round-headed chancel arch survives, with plain cushion capitals. On either side of the arch is a squint with chamfered edges. The nave has two 12th-century windows with round heads in the north wall. The north-east window is of the 15th century, with cinquefoiled heads under a square label. There is a plain blocked 12th-century doorway. In the south wall are three windows; the first an uncusped single light of late-15th-century date, next a 14th-century two-light with acutely pointed heads, and finally a 15th-century two-light with cinquefoiled heads under a square label; slightly below the stops of the label is a shield with the arms of Echingham. The plain south doorway with continuous chamfer is

of the 14th century, to which period also the porch belongs. It is of wood on a brick base and the roof is covered with shingles. It has been much repaired at various times and the sides have weather-boarding. In the upper part of the west wall of the nave is a small early-12th-century window. Below are two doorways, the upper opening into the gallery and the lower into the tower; they are of uncertain date. The latter was probably formed when the tower was built and the former at the time the gallery was erected in the 18th century.

The tower is low and massive, in two stages with angle buttresses of wide projection with two set-offs on the west. There is a plain west doorway. The fenestration consists of a single lancet on the north and south. The tower contains a rough stairway of oak blocks.

The chancel roof is concealed by a plaster ceiling, but the 15th-century wall plates are visible. The nave has a pointed wagon roof with incipient hammer-beams and moulded wall-plates of the 15th century with two tie-beams of later date. There are good 18th-century altar rails with turned and moulded balusters. The font has a circular bowl of the 12th century, with early-16th-century carved decoration in plain square panels with coarse foliage and fleurs de lis; there are indications of staples for fastening the cover on the rim.

The tower contains one bell of the 15th century, inscribed, 'Wox Augustini Sonet In Aure Dei' and a shield of the royal arms.²

The plate consists of a communion cup and paten cover of silver, 1700; a chalice of silver, 1905; a paten on a foot of silver, 1700; an alms dish of silver, 1901.³

The registers begin in 1558.

The church of Mountfield was *ADVOWSON* granted by Reinbert the sheriff, as part endowment of the prebend of Eustace, to the collegiate church of St. Mary in the Castle, Hastings.⁴ Later, with the churches of Salehurst and Udimore, it formed part of the prebend of Salehurst,⁵ and in 1309 this prebend was granted by William of Echingham to the abbey of Robertsbridge.⁶ In 1539 the abbey estates, including the advowson of the vicarage of Mountfield, were granted to Sir William Sidney.⁷ His son Henry sold it in 1584 to George Stubbersfield,⁸ who with his wife Alice conveyed it in the following year to John Downton⁹ and in 1610 he in turn sold it to John Sackville,¹⁰ in whose family it still is, Earl de la Warr being the present patron. The rectory was granted with the advowson to Sir William Sidney and followed the same descent.

¹ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix), 247; Cal. Ashburnham Doc. ii, 870, 1031.

² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 151, 218; lvii, 40.

³ *Ibid.* lv, 212-13.

⁴ *Ibid.* xiii, 136.

⁵ *Ibid.* viii, 161.

⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1307-13, p. 157.

⁷ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (1), g. 906 (8).

⁸ Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 26 Eliz.

⁹ *Ibid.* Hil. 27 Eliz.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* East. 8 Jas. 1.



DALLINGTON CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-WEST: c. 1800
(From a drawing in the Sharpe Collection)



PENHURST CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST: 1797
(From a drawing in the Sharpe Collection)

PENHURST

Penehest (xi cent.).

Penhurst is a small parish, entirely owned by Lady Catherine Ashburnham, containing 1,455 acres of land and a population, in 1931, of 66. It lies between the parishes of Ashburnham and Battle. A branch of the main road from Lewes to Hastings runs southward through the centre of the parish to the church, almost adjoining which is Church Farm, a very good example of a Jacobean house of stone ashlar, which in the setting of its old trees presents a most charming appearance. It is higher than most Sussex buildings of its kind, presenting a basement marked by a plinth and two stories divided by a string-course, surmounted by a high-pitched roof. A flight of steps leads up to the porch, both of whose doors have the flat arches and simple mouldings characteristic of late Gothic work. The windows are transomed and mullioned; the large chimney-stacks projecting each end have tall square brick shafts diagonally set. The interior has its original oak floors and panelled window-seats, rather modernized, and the western room has a fine angle with stout oak beam, jacks, and some late fire-backs.

On the closing of Ashburnham churchyard in 1886 a road to Penhurst was made by the Earl of Ashburnham to enable the inhabitants of Ashburnham to use the churchyard of Penhurst for burials, it being considerably enlarged for the purpose. The land is undulating, varying from 360 ft. in the north of the parish to 100 ft. in the south. Penhurst is well wooded, the large tract of woodland known as Creep Wood being in this parish. Mention is made of the ironworks of Penhurst as early as 1546¹ and in the following reign a certain Thomas Glazier is said to have dug up 'iron moyne in Penhurst to the value of £30 and cut down wood to burn the same'. About the same time Ninian Burrell, the lord of the manor, granted to Sir Nicholas Pelham 'a piece of ground whereon were a water mill and a corn mill called the Mill Place to the intent to build a furnace to make iron therein with enough ground to make a mill pond for a furnace'.² These ironworks flourished until the beginning of the 19th century. The surface soil is loam and subsoil clay, and the land is mainly pasture.

In 1086 *PENHURST* was held by Os-
MANOR bern of the Count of Eu,³ and was possibly at that date included in Bexhill, where Osbern (who also held Bodiam) held 10 hides.⁴ The overlordship followed the descent of the rape.

After the Survey no record of Penhurst is found until 1320, when it was held with Bodiam, as 4 knights' fees, by Nicholas Wardedieu and his brother Richard.⁵ These fees were held in 1342 by Richard's nephew John,⁶ and the mesne lordship descended with Bodiam (q.v.) until the 17th century.⁷

A family of Penhurst were sub-tenants of the manor from an early date. A William de Penhurst is mentioned as early as 1210,⁸ and in 1248 he was presented as holding a whole fee.⁹ In 1256 William de St. Leger, evidently acting as trustee, granted to Henry de Penhurst and Aubrey his wife the advowson of the church, a mill, and one carucate of land in Penhurst for their lives, with remainder to their son William. They were both dead before 1290, when Henry's later wife Isabel recovered dower here.¹⁰ William is mentioned in 1296 and 1327.¹¹ In 1336, however, Alice de Penhurst granted to her son Henry and his wife Katherine half the manor of Penhurst, viz. half the hall, with the solar and a cellar on the east of the hall, and half the kitchen, a grange called Nywe Grange, half the Pres-house, with the whole stable, and sundry fields.¹² Henry and his mother were still holding the manor in 1339,¹³ and it evidently continued in the family, as Richard Penhurst was in possession of the manor in 1469,¹⁴ and John Penhurst in 1479.¹⁵ Another John left as heir a daughter Elizabeth, who married Ninian Burrell. She died before 1562¹⁶ and her husband then held it for life, with reversion to his son Thomas.¹⁷ In 1576 Ninian Burrell jun., grandson of the elder Ninian, sold the reversion of the manor to Edward Michelbourne, who, however, had some difficulty in gaining possession.¹⁸ He died in 1609¹⁹ leaving a son Edward, student at the Middle Temple in 1606, who succeeded him and in 1617 sold the manor to Edward Bromfield and Anthony Carleton.²⁰ They in turn sold it to John Gyles in 1635, for £3,540, the site of the manor with the demesne lands, then in the occupation of George Luxford, being at the same time leased for 16 years to Thomas Mercer.²¹ In 1655 Joan, widow of John Gyles, granted the manor on a lease of 99 years to Sir Thomas Dyke,²² but one-third of it remained in the possession of Thomas Taylor and Mary and appears again in 1663 held by them, together with Elizabeth Newman, widow, and George Duffield and Anne.²³ Possibly these were daughters of Joan Gyles by one of her other husbands, but eventually this portion seems to have reverted to Sir Thomas Dyke or his widow Katherine, as she and her son Thomas were in possession of Penhurst in 1676,²⁴ and in 1677 Sir Thomas Dyke jun. leased it to the Hon. William Ashburnham.²⁵ Before 1702 the latter had purchased the manor,²⁶ and in that family it has since descended,²⁷ Lady Catherine Ashburnham being the present owner.

The church, dedication unknown, consists of chancel, north chapel, nave, south porch, and west tower.



PENHURST. *Sable a molet argent.*

¹ *Cat. of Battle Abbey Charters*, 143.
² *Chan. Proc.* (Ser. 2), lxiii, no. 58.
³ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 394b. ⁴ *Ibid.* 397a.
⁵ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 101.
⁶ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* ix, 282.
⁷ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccxiv, 111;
Add. MS. 5680, fol. 68.
⁸ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), 67.
⁹ *Assize R.* 909, m. 26.
¹⁰ Add. MS. 39373, fol. 111; *Suss. Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. vii), 605.

¹¹ *Subsidies* (Suss. Rec. Soc. x), 18, 206.
¹² *Cal. Ashburnham Doc.* (Lewes), i, no. 9.
¹³ *Coll. Top. et Gen.* vii, 119.
¹⁴ *Rentals and Surveys* (P.R.O.), 658.
¹⁵ Add. Chart. 17708.
¹⁶ *Cal. Ashburnham Doc.* (Lewes), i, no. 243.
¹⁷ *Chan. Proc.* (Ser. 2), lxiii, no. 58.
¹⁸ *Feet of F. Suss. Mich.* 18 & 19 Eliz.; *Com. Pleas D. Enr. Mich.* 18 & 19 Eliz.; *Chan. Proc.* (Ser. 2), ccxiv, 11.
¹⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccxiv, 111.

²⁰ *Feet of F. Suss. Mich.* 15 Jas. I.
²¹ *Ibid.* Trin. 11 Chas. II; *Cal. Ashburnham Doc.* ii, nos. 659 and 660.
²² *Ibid.* 733.
²³ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix), 247.
²⁴ *Feet of F. Suss. Hil.* 28 & 29 Chas. II.
²⁵ *Cal. Ashburnham Doc.* ii, 980.
²⁶ *Recov. R. East.* 1 Anne, ro. 39.
²⁷ *Ibid.* Hil. 10 Geo. I, ro. 236; *ibid.* East. 24 Geo. II, ro. 152; *ibid.* Hil. 53 Geo. III, ro. 17.

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The material is mainly ragstone and the roofs are tiled.

The chancel and nave date from the end *CHURCH* of the 14th century, the tower and porch were added in the 15th century, and the north chapel in the first half of the 17th century. The fabric was conservatively restored in 1881.

The chancel has a three-light east window of the 15th century and a diagonal buttress at the south-east angle. On the south is a priest's doorway with continuous mouldings and a two-light window with trefoiled heads under a square label. There is a piscina in the south wall with a partially destroyed bowl. The chapel has a three-light east window with cinquefoiled heads under a square label, and two buttresses with one set-off on the north. The original coping remains on the east and west gables. The chapel opens to the

porary door. The top stage of the tower is tiled and crowned with a pyramidal cap, also tiled. It has an unfinished appearance and was, doubtless, intended to terminate in an embattled parapet. The chancel has a barrel roof with modern boarding; on each wall-plate is a blank shield. The nave roof is of the king-post type and is plastered below the rafters.

There is a good 15th-century rood-screen of four bays, two of which are occupied by the doors. The lights have cusped tracery with trefoiled heads. The wainscot is quite plain, and the base beam is modern. On the soffit of the chancel arch is a groove for a wooden tympanum,¹ now destroyed. In the chapel is a modern reading-desk with poppy heads, one of which is of the 15th century. The altar rails are late-17th-century with turned balusters. The pulpit is Jacobean on a modern base, and the adjacent reading-desk contains early-17th-century panelling. The 15th-century font has a plain octagonal bowl and shaft and an 18th-century cover. The east window of the chancel has remains of 15th-century glass. In two of the main lights is good canopy work and in the tracery two shield-bearing angles; on the right shield are the arms of Pelham, the left is fragmentary with apparently six ermine tails sable on argent, and there is another fragment with the tinctures reversed.² The north windows of the nave have remains of 15th-century borders. There is an iron tomb slab to Peter Gower, 1703.

The tower contains one bell by William Chapman, 1781.³

The plate consists of a communion cup of silver, 1610; a pewter alms dish.⁴

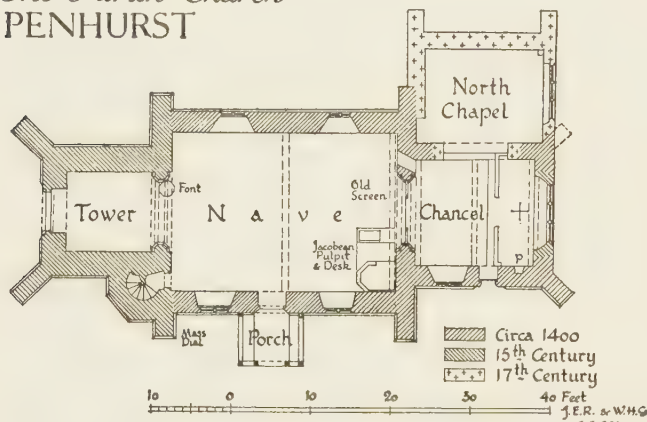
The registers begin in 1559.

In 1237 the Priory of Hastings gave up all claim to the advowson of the chapel of Penhurst, 'saving the ancient pension', to Walter Giffard.⁵ *ADVOWSON* But in 1291 the vicarage of Ashburnham is valued 'with Penhurst' at £6 13s. 4d.⁶ Long before this, however, the advowson had been settled on Henry and Aubrey de Penhurst and by 1290 it was in the hands of their son William.⁷ It continued to descend with the manor, Simon Penhurst presenting rectors between 1399 and 1410,⁸ and passed before 1681 to the family of Ashburnham.⁹ The Countess of Ashburnham is the present patron. In 1811 the rectory was consolidated with the vicarage of Ashburnham.

John Giles, rector of Penhurst, from *CHARITIES* a parish minute of 1 November 1707 appears to have bequeathed £10, the interest to be applied as the minister and churchwardens think fit. The charity appears to be lost.

John Earl of Ashburnham, by codicil to his will dated 13 June 1810, gave £100 to the parish of Penhurst. [See under Dallington.]

The Parish Church PENHURST



chancel by a round-headed arch with square imposts. The chancel arch is of two orders with moulded capitals and bases to the semi-octagonal responds. There is a squint with shouldered arch to the north of the chancel arch.

The nave has two two-light windows in the north and south walls with trefoiled heads under a square label, all of late-14th-century date. There are north-east and south-east angle buttresses. The south doorway has continuous mouldings and a prominent hood-mould. The porch is of timber on a brick base with a cusped barge-board and open sides. The tower arch of the 15th century is lofty and of two orders with moulded capitals and bases to the semi-octagonal responds. The tower has diagonal buttresses on the west and angle buttresses on the north-east and south-east. There is a scratch dial on the latter. The west doorway has a two-centred arch under a square label with a blank shield in each spandrel; above is a three-light window with 15th-century tracery under a hood-mould. The stair turret is at the south-east angle and is approached by a doorway in the angle of the nave with continuous mouldings, fitted with a plain contem-

¹ This evidently bore a painting of the Doom, as Sir William Burrell records that the rood-beam bore the inscriptions—(centre) *Ecce Homo*; (right) *Venite benedicti in regnum patris mei*; (left) *Ite maledicti in ignem eternum*: Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 561.

² Burrell describes this shield as: Quarterly, 1. Sable a mullet of six points arg. (the arms of Penhurst); 2 and 3. ermine; 4. ermines: *ibid.*

³ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 220.

⁴ *Ibid.* lv, 208.

⁵ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. ii), 347.

⁶ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 137b. The rectory was worth £3 18s. 4d. in 1535: *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), 342.

⁷ Add. MS. 39373, fol. 111.

⁸ *Robert Rede's Reg.* (Suss. Rec. Soc.), 250, 272, 292, 312.

⁹ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

THE HUNDRED OF NINFIELD

CONTAINING THE PARISHES OF

CATSFIELD

HOOE

NINFIELD

THE hundred of Ninfield is not mentioned by name in the Domesday Survey, but it apparently existed at that time and included Hooe, Catsfield, and Ninfield, and a place called 'Medehei' which has not been identified.¹ The first mention of the hundred is in 1248;² and in 1279 it contained the places mentioned above, with the exception of Medehei, and in addition the vill of Cooden.³ In the Subsidy Roll of 1296 Catsfield and Cooden are assessed together as one vill, in 1327 the four vills are separate.⁴ The relative importance of the places is shown by the assessment of Ninfield in 1539 in men, horses, harness, and weapons: Hooe being numbered at 45; Ninfield at 26; Catsfield at 22; and Cooden at 3.⁵ The hundred has remained unchanged till the present day except that Cooden⁶ has been transferred to the hundred of Bexhill. Since at least the 17th century a small part of Catsfield has been included in the hundred of Netherfield (q.v.).

The descent is identical with that of the rape of Hastings (q.v.), the present owner being the Earl of Chichester.

¹ *V.C.H. Suss.* 395, 396.

² Assize R. 909, m. 27 d.

³ *Ibid.* 915, m. 33.

⁴ *Subsidies* (Suss. Rec. Soc. x), 6, 320.

⁵ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (1), 298.

⁶ In 1401 the tithingman of Cooden presented that 'all is well because almost the whole tithing is submerged in the sea': *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxvii, 179.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

CATSFIELD

Cedesfeld (xi cent.); Cattesfeld (xiv cent.); Catysfide (xvi cent.).

The parish of Catsfield, bounded on the south-west by the Powdermill stream, covers about 3,000 acres. In the churchyard Thomas Brassey, the celebrated railway contractor and father of the 1st Lord Brassey, is buried.

Catsfield village lies north-west of the church, on the Battle–Ninfield road, the three roads on which it stands forming a triangle. None of the buildings is of interest.

Broomham, just west of the village, is a late-16th-century house with a central staircase-wing at the back. Modern additions have made the plan L-shaped. The front of the original part is of timber-framing in three main bays and two stories: the upper retains a great deal of old herring-bone brick nogging. The great central chimney-stack is of thin bricks above the roof and is of the local rebated plan with an additional V-shaped front pilaster. The entrance lobby flanks the chimney-stack: the doorway from it into the southern of the two rooms has an original six-panelled door with moulded framing, rail-studded: this is probably the old front door reset. The south room has an open-timbered ceiling, and a great fire-place with a heavy lintel and a chimney-seat. The framing is exposed on the side walls. The staircase has 2½ in. turned balusters and square newels with turned square heads: at the foot is a dog-gate with thinner balusters. The first floor has similar moulded ceiling-beams. The attics have plain original roof-trusses with shaped posts and plain ties and purlins.

Catsfield Place Farm is the former seat of the Papillon family: the house, of about 1600, has been much altered externally. It was probably of timber-framing which was encased with brick in the 18th century. Additions have been built south-west of the old part. At the back is a late-17th-century wing containing the staircase, &c. The main block has a great square central chimney-stack of thin bricks; in the middle room is a very wide fire-place with modern brick jambs but an original oak bressummer and an iron fire-back with the initials NP and date 1685. The north-east room is lined with panelling of about 1600 in six tiers. The staircase in the back wing bears the date 1675; it has turned and twisted balusters and square newels with ball-tops.

Henley's Down is a small group of buildings about ½ mile south-west of Catsfield Place, with several 17th- and 18th-century cottages. One thatched cottage has a few timbers of old framing. Henley Down Farm is a two-storied building with an early-17th-century central chimney-stack. South of it is an ancient barn of timber-framing in four bays with curved braces and plastered infilling: the roof is thatched.

Old Farm Place¹ stands at the south end of the group; the north half is probably of the end of the 16th century and is of L-shaped plan: the south half was added in 1925. The building was badly damaged by fire in 1927. The main block of the older part has its

lower story of squared stone rubble, the upper story being of timber-framing and plaster. The central chimney-stack has a very wide fire-place inside and a small locker, but the bressummer has been heightened. There are old ceiling-beams, some brought from elsewhere. The gabled east end of the wing has an 18th-century chimney-stack. In this, on the first floor, is an earlier fire-place with brick jambs and an arched oak lintel.

Potman's Farm, south-west of Henley's Down, is a late-15th-century house of L-shaped plan. The exterior is chiefly of late-17th-century and later brickwork and some tile-hanging, but there are two chimney-stacks of the rebated type of early-17th-century bricks. The large entrance-hall was formerly two rooms and has an open-timbered ceiling with chamfered main beams, and, at the north-west end, a wide fire-place with an oak Tudor arch. At the back of the hall is an ancient winding staircase of oak. The south-east wing has original ceiling-beams to both floors dividing the ceiling into three bays by two. The upper story also has moulded wall-posts. The roofs appear to be not earlier than the 17th century.

The ground rises gradually to 300 ft. in the extreme west of the parish, Normanhurst, the seat formerly of Lord Brassey, now of Major Baltine, being the highest point. Good crops of corn are grown, but the greater part of the parish consists of pasture, while there are about 600 acres of wood. The soil is loamy with a subsoil of sand and clay. Brickmaking is carried on in the parish.

CATSFIELD was originally a single *MANORS* estate of 1½ hides, held before the Conquest by Elfalm. After the Conquest it formed part of the lands of the Count of Eu, and the overlordship follows the descent of the rape.²

The sub-tenant in 1086 was Werenc,³ whose immediate successors are not known. At the beginning of the 13th century the 'fee of Catsfield' was held by Simon de Sumeri,⁴ whose son (or grandson?) Simon died in or slightly before 1289 leaving a widow Pernel⁵ who was assessed in 1296 for land in Catsfield.⁶ The manor at this time and until at least 1469 was held of Netherfield under the families of Hastings and Finch.⁷ Simon de Sumeri left five daughters, co-heirs: Maud, who married William de Snaylham; Isabel, mother of Thomas de Chilleye; Alice, who subsequently parted with her share to Henry de Garland; Agnes, who sold her share to William father of John de Stokes; and Joan, who married John de Lunsford.⁸ Maud, as a widow, in 1320 had a grant for life of the advowson of Catsfield church and of about 300 acres there or elsewhere from Thomas de Weyvyle and Joan his wife, with reversion to them and the heirs of Joan,⁹ who was probably Maud's daughter. Thomas, who was assessed in Catsfield in 1327,¹⁰ bought land and one-fifth of the advowson from Richard de Asheby and Katharine his wife in 1343.¹¹ In 1376 John Weyvyle held a joint court at Catsfield with Thomas Levett¹² (see below), and

¹ It was formerly called New Barn Farm, but the name was changed to avoid confusion with a farm farther south.

² *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 102, 463; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, 233.

³ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 395.

⁴ Hales MS. (Lincoln's Inn), 87, fol. 59.

⁵ Add. MS. 39373, fol. 109.

⁶ *Subsidies* (Suss. Rec. Soc. x), 6.

⁷ Add. MS. 39373, fol. 109; *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 101; *Rentals and Surveys* (P.R.O.), 658.

⁸ Add. MS. 39373, fol. 214, quoting De Banco R. East. 1 Edw. II, m. 29.

⁹ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc.), no. 1573.

¹⁰ *Subsidies* (Suss. Rec. Soc.), 209.

¹¹ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc.), no. 1985. As Thomas Assheby in 1364 was 'cousin and heir' of John Haket, who was grandson of John de Stokes (Add. MS. 39374, fol. 203; and see under Buckholt, above, p. 118) it looks as if this was the share of Agnes.

¹² *Cal. Ashburnham Docts.* (Lewes), i, no. 29.

in 1407 presentation to the church was made by Richard Weyvyle,¹ who died in 1415,² when he bequeathed his (share of the) manor and advowson to Lewes Priory, but presumably the Statute of Mortmain invalidated the bequest.

This portion of Catsfield appears to have been acquired before 1446 by George Hardresse, a member of a Kentish family, who lived until 1485, when he was succeeded by his son James.³ In 1520 Thomas Hardresse, son of James, conveyed this estate to William Ashburnham and his son John,⁴ in whose family it descended until 1600. In that year another John Ashburnham conveyed it to Thomas Alfray.⁵ The whole of the advowson appears to have been acquired by his successor Richard Alfray in 1609,⁶ and descended with this estate. In 1637 Richard was still in possession, and in 1676 his son Thomas,⁷ but two years later Thomas and his son Nathaniel conveyed the manor to Thomas Jordan and Henry Luxford.⁸ In 1688 it was sold by George Luxford, Thomas Jordan and Anne, and Stephen Hamms and Thomasine, to Richard Bayley and Charles Toll,⁹ who were acting as executors of the Hon. William Ashburnham.¹⁰ William Lord Ashburnham was holding it in 1702,¹¹ and it continued in that family¹² and is still part of the Ashburnham estates.

The share brought by Joan daughter of Simon de Sumeri to John de Lunsford descended in that family. A John appears in the Subsidy Rolls of 1327 and 1332 in Catsfield, and was still holding his portion, assessed for 40s. in 1339.¹³ In 1361, also, John was in possession with his wife Alice, and he was succeeded by his son Simon.¹⁴ In 1431 Simon de Lunsford conveyed his portion of the manor and advowson to John Yelding and Margaret his wife.¹⁵

The descent of the shares of the other daughters of Simon de Sumeri is obscure, but about 1446 the advowson was divided between five owners presenting in turn, viz. Thomas Levett, George Hardresse, John Mavesyn, Bartholomew Bolney,¹⁶ and John Yelding.¹⁷ The Levett portion became the separate manor of Catsfield-Levett (q.v.). John Mavesyn¹⁸ appears in the Muster Roll of 1339.¹⁹ His descendant Henry presented to the church in 1397,²⁰ and John Mavesyn was in possession in 1450,²¹ when as one of the Constables of Ninfield Hundred he was involved in Cade's Rebel-

lion.²² John Engeham, the son of John Engeham by Philippe sister of John Mavesyn, in 1496 sold the estate to Walter Roberts, who in 1504 conveyed it, with the share of the advowson pertaining, to William Yelding,²³ whose family was already in possession of the Lunsford portion.

Meanwhile the portion of Bartholomew Bolney passed to Richard Bolney, who was succeeded in 1500 by his son John.²⁴ The latter died in 1557-8,²⁵ and his nephew John sold the estate in 1564 to John Yelding, son of the William Yelding mentioned above.²⁶ Three parts of Catsfield had thus come into the same hands, and formed the main manor. This estate was conveyed by John Yelding to Edmund Pelham in 1584.²⁷ Edmund died seised of it in 1606,²⁸ his son Herbert sold it in 1612 to William Ralfe, who in turn conveyed it to John Wheatley in 1615.²⁹ His widow Elizabeth married Sir William Russell, bart., and by 1639 it had come into his possession. Moreover, her daughter and heir Katharine married Sir William's son Francis,³⁰ and they were holding it in the following year. From them it was bought back by Sir Thomas Pelham in 1650.³¹ The Russells, however, did not finally release their rights, to Sir Thomas's widow Margaret, until 1656.³² From that date Catsfield descended in the Pelham family, with the manor of Crowhurst (q.v.), to Lt.-Col. Pelham Rawston Papillon, D.S.O., J.P., the present lord of the manor.

CATSFIELD LEVETT originated with the portion of Catsfield Manor held by Thomas son of John Levett in 1347. A Thomas was the owner in 1376;³³ Richard Levett had succeeded by 1411;³⁴ and Thomas Levett, as we have seen, was holding his part of Catsfield in 1446. It evidently descended in the Levett family in the same manner as Yelding in Baldslow (q.v.), since it came to Mary Levett, heiress of the family,



HARDRESSE. *Gules a lion ermine with a chevron or over all.*



LEVETT. *Argent crusilly fitchy and a lion sable.*



EVERSFIELD. *Ermine a bend sable with three pierced molets thereon.*

who married Thomas Eversfield³⁵ and died in 1608. Subsequently it passed with Yelding through many

¹ *Rob. Rede's Reg.* (Suss. Rec. Soc.), 293.

² Will in P.C.C. 40 Marche.

³ *Arch. Cant.* iv, 56; Cal. Ashburnham Doc. i (Lewes), nos. 107 and 128. He is here described as lord of two parts of the manor, in five parts divided.

⁴ *Harl. Soc.* xiii, 211; Cal. Ashburnham Doc. i (Lewes), no. 162.

⁵ Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 42 Eliz.

⁶ *Ibid.* Hil. 6 Jas. I.

⁷ *Ibid.* Trin. 13 Chas. I; *ibid.* East. 28 Chas. II.

⁸ Cal. Ashburnham Doc. ii (Lewes), no. 1018.

⁹ Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 3 & 4 Jas. II.

¹⁰ Add. MS. 39489, fol. 167.

¹¹ *Recov. R.* East. 1 Anne, ro. 38.

¹² *Ibid.* East. 24 Geo. II, ro. 152; *ibid.* Hil. 25 Geo. III, ro. 334; *ibid.* East. 53

Geo. III, ro. 17.

¹³ *Subsidies* (Suss. Rec. Soc. x), 209, 321; *Coll. Top. et Gen.* vii, 119.

¹⁴ Add. Charts. 29771, 29774. This John held $\frac{1}{2}$ part of the water-mill.

¹⁵ Cal. Ashburnham Doc. i (Lewes), no. 60.

¹⁶ Thomas Levett, before 1433, had given land in Catsfield to Bartholomew Bolney; Add. MS. 5679, fol. 118.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* fol. 115.

¹⁸ As Henry Mauvesyn bought property elsewhere from Amice de Chilleye in 1377 [*Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc.), no. 1985] he may represent Isabel de Sumeri.

¹⁹ *Coll. Top. et Gen.* vii, 119.

²⁰ *Rob. Rede's Reg.* (Suss. Rec. Soc.), 241.

²¹ Cal. Ashburnham Doc. i (Lewes), no. 92.

²² *Cal. Pat.* 1446-52, p. 345.

²³ Cal. Ashburnham Doc. i (Lewes), nos. 137 and 160.

²⁴ *Exch. Inq.* p.m. 1064, no. 2.

²⁵ *Horsfield, Sussex*, i, 542.

²⁶ Feet of F. Suss. East. 6 Eliz.

²⁷ *Ibid.* East. 26 Eliz.; Cal. Ashburnham Doc. i (Lewes), no. 307.

²⁸ *Chan. Inq.* p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxcviii, 104.

²⁹ Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 9 Jas. I; *ibid.* Hil. 12 Jas. I.

³⁰ G.E.C. *Complete Baronetage*, ii, 65.

³¹ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix), 89.

³² *Ibid.* 90.

³³ De Banco R. 352, m. 192; Cal. Ashburnham Doc. i, no. 29.

³⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* x, 143.

³⁵ Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 31 Eliz.

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generations of Eversfields and was held by James and Mary Eversfield in 1817.¹ They were still holding it in 1825,² but sold it soon afterwards to Major-General Sir Andrew Pilkington, who was in possession in 1835.³ In 1870 his widow Lady Pilkington was holding it with their daughter's husband the Rev. Burrell Hayley, and they were occupying the manor house, formerly known as 'Church House', but then renamed Catsfield Place.⁴ From the Rev. Burrell Hayley this manor descended to the present owner, Major W. B. Hayley, D.S.O.

BROOMHAM [Brunham (xi cent.)] is recorded in Domesday Book under Netherfield Hundred. It was held in the time of King Edward by Edith, and in 1086 by Wenenc the priest under the Count of Eu,⁵ with whom the overlordship remained.⁶ Like the rest of Catsfield it was later held of the de Hastings family,⁷ lords of the manor of Netherfield.

The 'new park' of the Abbot of Battle at Broomham is mentioned in the reign of Edward I,⁸ and in 1309 William de Bromham conveyed to Joce son of William de Whatlington, one messuage, 60 acres of arable land, 20 acres of wood and 200 acres of furze and scrub;⁹ which estate was given by Joce in the following year to Battle Abbey.¹⁰ Both grants were confirmed by William de Garland,¹¹ who in 1311 held Broomham of William de Hastings for half a fee,¹² so that it possibly represents the share of Catsfield manor originally held by Alice de Sumeri.¹³ William de Garland was still holding it in 1339,¹⁴ but for the next two centuries the history of Broomham is obscure. Early in the 16th century Broomham had been acquired by the Lewknor family and had been divided into three separate manors.

The most important of these came into the possession of Sir Roger Lewknor, lord of the manor of Bodiam, and at his death in 1543 was divided among his three daughters, Katherine wife of William Morgan, Constance wife of Edward Glemham, and Mabel wife of Anthony Stapeley. Mabel died without issue, and her sisters and their descendants therefore became seised of a moiety each.¹⁵ Katharine Morgan's daughter Elizabeth married Henry Bosville, and this moiety passed from him to his son Sir Ralph Bosville, who survived until 1636, but had earlier settled the estate on his son Leonard on his marriage.¹⁶ The latter sold, or mortgaged, it in 1637 to Thomas Gravett.¹⁷ The moiety of Constance Glemham was sold in 1588 to John Levett of Salehurst, under whose will Thomas Levett and Margaret his wife succeeded.¹⁸ The latter survived her husband and in 1619 conveyed her moiety to John Levett of Sedlescombe,¹⁹ who in 1623 sold

it to Nicholas Tufton.²⁰ His son John Earl of Thanet in 1645 conveyed 'the manor' to Nathaniel Powell of Ewhurst,²¹ who held courts there from 1645 to 1671,²² and whose descendant Sir Christopher Powell, bart. owned the manor in 1720;²³ but Nicholas Lord Tufton, the earl's eldest son, was still holding half the manor in 1664-5.²⁴ The manor was subsequently acquired by the family of Ashburnham.²⁵

A second manor of Broomham, subsequently known as **BROOMHAM ALLFRAYS**, was in 1507 conveyed by Richard Lewknor and his wife Joan to William Ashburnham.²⁶ After he acquired a portion of the manor of Catsfield (q.v.) the two estates descended together, passing to the family of Alfray,²⁷ from whom the manor was named, and subsequently back to the Ashburnhams.²⁸

The third manor of Broomham, later known as **BROOMHAM PARKGATE**, from its situation at the entrance to the former park of the Abbot of Battle, appears in 1555 in the possession of Drew Barantyne,²⁹ son of Joan, eldest daughter of Sir Roger Lewknor by his first wife. Drew sold the manor in 1556 to Stephen Boorde,³⁰ who died seised of it in 1567, leaving it to his son Thomas.³¹ From the latter it passed to his son Ninian Boorde in 1602, and four years later to Herbert son of Ninian.³² Herbert lived until 1648, but appears to have sold the manor before 1638 to John Panton, who in that year mortgaged it to Nehemiah Panton and Thomas Collins to pay his debts, and finally conveyed it to them in 1646.³³ In 1651 they sold the manor to Dr. Lambrock Thomas,³⁴ and in 1674 Margaret Thomas, widow, then married to Thomas Briggs, received seisin of the property.³⁵ Before the end of the century it had come into the possession of the Ashburnham family, who held it until 1813,³⁶ but shortly afterwards it was acquired by Thomas Fuller. From him it passed to his nephew John Fuller of Rosehill, and from him again to a nephew, Sir Peregrine Fuller Palmer Acland, bart., in 1833. The latter sold it shortly before 1865 to Thomas Brassey, M.P.,³⁷ who built his new residence of Normanhurst on the estate. He was succeeded in 1870 by his son Thomas, 1st Earl Brassey, whose son, the 2nd and last Earl, died in 1919. Countess Brassey is now lady of the manor.



BRASSEY. Quarterly fesse-wise indented sable and argent with a mallard argent in the quarter having beak and legs gules.

¹ Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 57 Geo. III.

² Ibid. East. 6 Geo. IV.

³ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 541.

⁴ Lower, *Sussex*, i, 96. The original Catsfield Place had become a farm.

⁵ *V.C.H. Suss.*, i, 399a.

⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxcii, 159.

⁷ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 114.

⁸ *Cust. of Battle Abbey* (Camden Soc.),

14.

⁹ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 3 Edw. II.

¹⁰ *Cal. Pat.* 1307-13, p. 268.

¹¹ Thorpe, *Cat. of Battle Abbey Chart.*, 59.

¹² Add. MS. 5679, fol. 114.

¹³ See above.

¹⁴ *Coll. Top. et Gen.*, vii, 120.

¹⁵ Add. Chart. 8792; *Arch. Cant.*, ix, p. cxvi; *Suss. Arch. Coll.*, ix, 294; *Recov. R. Hil.* 31 Eliz. ro. 31.

¹⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccclxxx, 139.

¹⁷ *Suss. Rec. Soc.*, xix, 50.

¹⁸ *Suss. Arch. Coll.*, xiv, 81.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 21 Jas. I.

²¹ *Suss. Rec. Soc.*, xix, 50.

²² Court Rolls in possession of the lord of the manor.

²³ *Recov. R. Trin.* 6 Geo. I, ro. 81.

²⁴ Feet of F. Div. Co. Hil. 15 & 16 Chas. II.

²⁵ *Recov. R. East.* 53 Geo. III, ro. 17; Ct. Rs.

²⁶ Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 22 Hen. VII; *Cal. Ashburnham Doc.* i (Lewes), no. 144.

²⁷ Thomas Alfray died in 1590 seised of a messuage called 'Bromham', so that possibly he acquired the mansion house before the manor itself was conveyed to his

son Thomas in 1600: *Inqs.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xiv), 19.

²⁸ *Recov. R. East.* 53 Geo. III, ro. 17.

²⁹ *Cal. Ashburnham Doc.* i (Lewes), no.

216.

³⁰ Ibid. no. 218.

³¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cxlviii, 8.

³² Ibid. cclxx, 145; *ibid.* ccxcii, 159.

³³ *Cal. Ashburnham Doc.* i (Lewes), no. 638.

³⁴ Ibid. no. 696.

³⁵ Ibid. no. 932.

³⁶ Ct. Rs. in possession of the lord of the manor; *Recov. R. East.* 53 Geo. III, ro. 17.

³⁷ Lower, *Sussex Worthies*, 96. Horsfield (*Sussex*, i, 542) says, however, that Capt. Bedingfield was the owner in 1835, and bought it from the Rev. Thos. Fuller. Possibly this was only a lease. It was then called Catsfield House.



CATSFIELD CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST: c. 1800
(From a drawing in the Sharpe Collection)

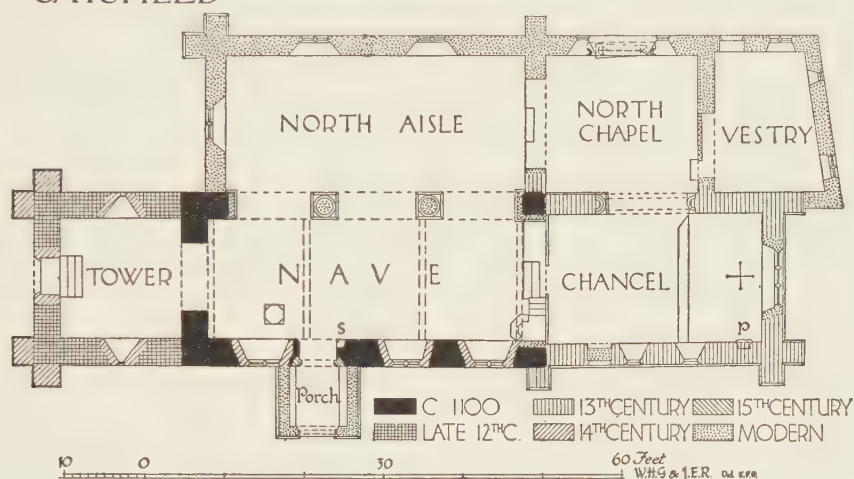
The church of *ST. LAWRENCE* consists of a chancel, north chapel, north vestry, nave, *CHURCH* north aisle, south porch, and west tower; it is built of stone and the roofs are covered with tiles.

The nave probably dates from early in the 12th century. The tower was added about 1200 and the present chancel was built about 1220. About 1310 a north chapel was added and during this century windows and doorways were inserted in the church, the nave was re-roofed and the fine timber spire was built. The north aisle, the south porch, and the vestry are modern and the north chapel has been rebuilt in modern times.

The chancel has a modern three-light east window. On the north is a wide pointed arch, of about 1310: it is of two chamfered orders springing from semicircular

most window has grotesque head stops. The south doorway is of a little later date, about 1400; it has continuous mouldings which rise from stops at the base. In the east internal jamb of the doorway is a holy water stoup, constructed in an unusual manner. It is so cut in a stone of the corner of the jamb that it has a semicircular opening for the hand both on the north and west sides, separated by a small pillar at the actual corner, and giving access to the bowl, which is common to both of them. The tower arch is pointed and of one plain chamfered order springing from completely plain responds. The floor of the tower having been raised 2 ft. 7 in., the lower parts of the responds are now covered. The nave has an open king-post roof of late-14th-century date with moulded tie-beams, slightly cambered, and moulded wall-plates.

PARISH CHURCH of ST. LAWRENCE CATSFIELD



responds with moulded capitals and bases. In the south wall are two early-13th-century lancets and a pointed doorway, now blocked, of the same period. Near the east end of the wall is a 13th-century pointed piscina: its mouldings consist of two rolls separated by a hollow, all rising from the sill without base or stop. The bowl is circular: the projecting portion is renewed in modern stone. The chancel arch and the roof over the chancel are modern.

In rebuilding the chapel a tomb recess, of about 1310, had been reset in the north wall: the tomb itself is missing. The recess has a low pointed head with two orders of mouldings, the inner order rising from moulded bases: there is a label with curled stops. The windows of the chapel, and the arch to the aisle on the west are modern.

The nave, as is seen on the exposed south side, is built of uncoursed rubble and some herringbone masonry, the rubble being intermixed with the herringbone work in some places and the whole executed in a rough manner. The walls average 3 ft. 5 in. in thickness. The north wall is pierced by a modern arcade of three pointed arches. In the south wall are three 14th-century windows, each of two trefoiled lights in a square head. The middle window is taller than the other two and, like the easternmost window, has a label with returned stops: the label of the western-

The tower is of two stages, undivided externally, and is surmounted by a timber broached spire covered with shingles. It is supported at the west angles by buttresses. There is no turret stairway, approach to the bell-chamber being by means of a ladder set up within the tower. The west doorway, inserted in the 14th century, has a pointed head with continuous mouldings and a label with head-stops, much weather-worn. Above it is a small rectangular light and each side of the bell-chamber, except the east, is pierced by a single light with a square head. The spire retains its original timber framework, which is a fine example of medieval carpentry.

There are three bells.¹ The first two are of medieval, probably late-14th-century, date. 1 is inscribed *Sum Rosa Pulsata Mundi Katerina Vocata*; 2 *Dulcis Sisto Melis Campana Vocor Gabrielis*; both have stops bearing a cross. 3 by William Hull, 1685.

The church plate consists of a silver cup of 1641; a silver paten of 1676; and a silver flagon of 1676.²

The registers begin in 1611.

The account of Catsfield in Domesday included a chapel (*ecclesiola*),³ and the rectory was valued in 1291 at £6 13s. 4d.⁴ The advowson descended with the manor. In 1347 the right of Thomas de Weyle and

¹ *Suss. Arch. Soc.* xvi, 203; lvii, 15-19.

² *Ibid.* lv, 187.

³ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 395b.

⁴ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 137.

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his wife Joan to present was challenged by Thomas son of John Lyvet, but his claim was disallowed.¹ The advowson was still held in 1446 in turn by the five owners of the manor (q.v.). When three-fifths of the original holding of Catsfield came into the hands of John Yelding he considered himself 'true patron',² but John Ashburnham nevertheless had his share.³ Later Herbert Pelham held the advowson for a while, but in 1609 conveyed it to Richard Alfray,⁴ holder of the Ashburnham part of the estate. With that part (q.v.) it remained, returning to the Ashburnhams, who kept it until after 1823.⁵ Subsequently it was acquired by Mrs. Burrell Hayley, of Catsfield Levett,

who presented in 1881,⁶ but is now held by Countess Brassey of Broomham Parkgate.

John Fuller in the year 1795 gave *CHARITIES* by deed to the rector and churchwardens an annuity of £60, payable out of an estate containing about 105 acres called the Great Lulhams, in the parish of Ripe, to be distributed half-yearly between 6 blind persons inhabitants of Sussex. The rent-charge is paid out of Little Lulham Farm in the ownership of Mr. J. Harper.

This parish participates in the charity of John Earl of Ashburnham, particulars of which are given under Dallington.

HOOE

Hou (xi cent.); Ho (xiii cent.); Hoe (xv cent.).

The parish of Hooe lies between Wartling and Bexhill about 4½ miles north-east of Pevensey, which is the nearest station. The road from Battle, shortly after reaching Hooe Common, throws off a branch in a south-westerly direction to Pevensey. The main road also runs south-west for a considerable distance, then takes a sharp turn to the east, continuing through Bexhill to Hastings. No part of Hooe is more than 200 ft. above the ordnance datum, the lower part being very liable to floods from the East Stream, which forms the southern boundary of the parish for some distance. Hooe is very sparsely wooded, most of the land being under grass.

The accounts of Hooe in medieval times show that it suffered considerably from inundation of the sea and fresh-water streams. Between 1291 and 1340 400 acres in Hooe had been rendered useless for cultivation from this cause.⁷ In the latter year one-third of the demesne lands were untilled owing to the poverty of the inhabitants, all of whom lived by agriculture.⁸

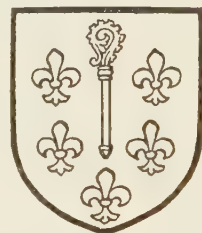
Among the scattered houses of this parish the most architecturally interesting is Court Lodge, a really fine example of late-17th-century brick-work. The design is distinctly original and the very effective chimneys, rising above a high basement, two stories, and steep tiled roof, form a conspicuous landmark. Huge stacks project at each end of the building, that toward the north having two shafts set diagonally, and the other having a central diagonal and two outer ones placed rectangularly, all crowned by heavy cornices. The design is a little spoiled by the addition of extra flues. The stories are marked by brick string-courses, and the square-headed windows have leaded lights. Of three attics facing the garden the central is gabled and the outer two are round-headed. The back has been largely altered. The interior has been well restored, but has few original features except the stair with pierced posts crowned by finials.

Many houses have traditional associations with the smugglers, but the Red Lion Inn, a plain brick building of the 18th century, still retains in its roof the old tobacco mill used by 'the gentlemen'. At its top is a square wooden hopper; the cutters in an iron cylinder are turned by a well-handle.

In 1086 the manor of *HOOE*, which before the Conquest had belonged to Earl Godwin, and was assessed at 12 hides, was held in demesne by the Count of Eu.⁹ The manor then included a chapel, *MANOR* one mill, 71 acres of meadow, and 30 salt-pans worth 33s. Among the tenants may be noted Reinbert the sheriff, founder of the family of Echingham, Ingelram, sheriff of the rape of Hastings, and Gerold de Normanville, the Count's steward.¹⁰ In 1106 Henry Count of Eu gave the manor to the abbey

of St. Mary of Bec in Normandy and St. Martin-au-Bois, a dependent house of the same abbey, and the gift was confirmed by John and Henry his son and grandson respectively.¹¹ The Counts of Eu, however, retained some rights of overlordship until the end of the 13th century.¹² The manor was administered by the priory of Ogbourne in Wiltshire, chief cell of the abbey of Bec in this country.¹³ Like other alien priories Ogbourne was frequently taken into the king's hands during the French wars, and in or before 1339 the manor, accurately valued at £11 19s. 11d., was put by the king in the hands of Reynold de Cobham.¹⁴

In 1415 the priory was suppressed and shortly afterwards the manor of Hooe was granted to John Duke of Bedford, who died seized of it in 1435, his heir being his nephew King Henry VI.¹⁵ In 1440 the manor was leased by the king for life to Sir Roger Fiennes, Treasurer of the Household,¹⁶ with reversion to the college of St. Mary of Eton, and he held it till his death about 1445. A rent of two parts of 32 quarters of salt from the manor, which had long been paid to the lord of the manor of Warbleton, was claimed from the Provost of Eton by William de Warbleton in 1452, but he was given the office of Constable of Odiham Castle in recompense, and the rent remained with the manor.¹⁷ Eton College, however, did not hold Hooe for long, as in 1461 Thomas Wilmot, vicar of Ashford, Kent, received the manor as an endowment for the college newly founded there by Sir John Fogg.¹⁸ It



ABBAY OF BEC. . . . a crozier upright between five fleurs de lis. . .

¹ De Banco R. 352, m. 192.

² Cal. Ashburnham Doc. i (Lewes), no. 301.

³ Ibid. no. 296.

⁴ Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 6 Jas. I.

⁵ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

⁶ Hennessy, *Chic. Dioc. Clergy Lists*.

⁷ *Inq. Non.* (Rec. Com.), 371.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 395b.

¹⁰ Ibid.; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xlii, 81.

¹¹ *Cal. Doc. France*, 134.

¹² Add. MS. 5679, fol. 529.

¹³ Dugdale, *Mon.* vii, 1053.

¹⁴ *Cal. Close*, 1339-40, p. 544.

¹⁵ *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 14 Hen. VI, no. 36.

¹⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1436-41, p. 385; *ibid.* 1446-52, p. 513.

¹⁷ Ibid. 513 and 530.

¹⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1461-7, p. 76.

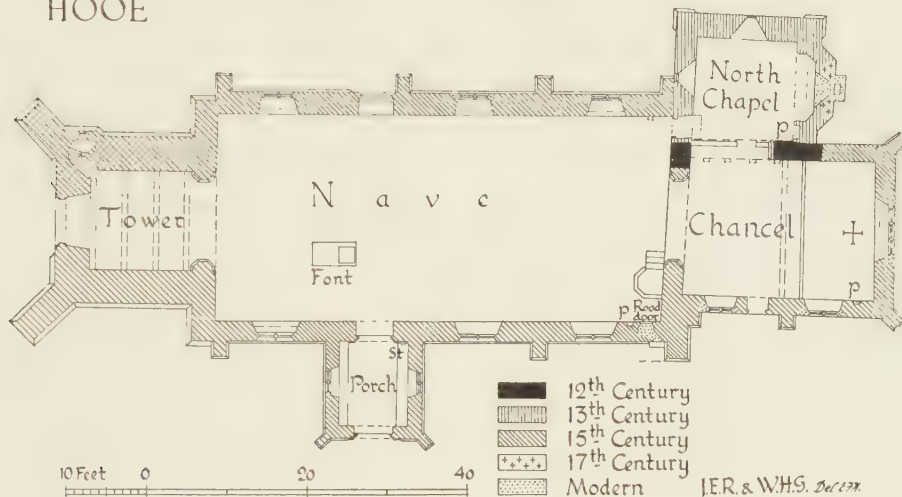
remained vested in the vicars of Ashford until 1550, when the vicar, John Ponet, the famous scholar who became Bishop of Rochester in that year, obtained permission to grant it in exchange for other lands to Sir John Cheke,¹ the noted Greek scholar, formerly tutor to Edward VI and the Princess Elizabeth, and he in 1557 conveyed it to the Crown.² In 1571 a lease of the site of the manor and the demesnes for 21 years was made to Robert Record,³ and on the expiration of this lease in 1592 the manor lands were leased to Richard Conyngsby for 41 years.⁴ This lease was transferred, before 1608, to Robert Earl of Dorset,⁵ and his brother Richard, the 3rd Earl, in 1624 directed that it should be sold for the payment of his debts.⁶

The church of *ST. OSWALD* consists of a chancel, north chapel, nave, south porch, and *CHURCH* west tower; it is built of stone and the roofs are covered with tiles.

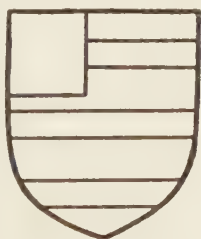
The western portion of the north wall of the chancel probably dates from the 12th century: the church of that period consisting of a chancel and nave. The north chapel was added early in the 13th century. In the 15th century the whole church, with the exception of the chapel, was rebuilt and the south porch and west tower were added. The church was restored in 1889.

All the windows of the chancel have been renewed externally, but are set in old internal jambs and rear

PARISH CHURCH of ST. OSWALD HOOE



The manorial rights seem to have been purchased by Henry Garraway, alderman and afterwards Lord Mayor of London, who in 1629 with Margaret his wife sold the manor to Sir Thomas Springett and Simon Stone⁷ his brother-in-law. It was then said to consist entirely of freeholders.⁸ Sir Thomas Springett died in 1639, and in 1641-2 the manor was held by Simon Stone,⁹ after whose death it evidently descended in the Springett family, and came to Gulielma, great niece of Sir Thomas, and wife of William Penn, the celebrated Quaker. In 1676 they conveyed it to Sir James Rushout, bart.¹⁰ Shortly afterwards Hooe came into the possession of the family of Fuller, and in 1775 John Fuller, grandson of the purchaser, was holding it.¹¹ In 1788 the Rev. Thomas Fuller sold it to John Fuller of Lewes.¹² About 1835 it was held by A. E. Fuller,¹³ but passed in that year to Sir Peregrine Palmer Fuller Palmer Acland, bart., and in 1864 to Thomas Brassey, the present lady of the manor being Countess Brassey.



FULLER. *Argent three bars and a quarter gules.*

arches. The east window is of three lights with tracery in a pointed head and the two windows on the south are each of two lights in a square head: these last retain their 15th-century labels with grotesque head-stops. Between the windows on the south is a pointed priest's doorway. At the west end of the north wall is a two-centred arch to the chapel: it is of one plain splayed order rising from a respond on the east and falling directly on the wall at the west. At the east end of the south wall is a plain pointed 15th-century piscina in a square head: it had a circular bowl, half of which has been broken away with the portion of the sill which projected from the wall. The chancel arch is of the same period: it is pointed and of two hollow-chamfered orders springing from semi-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases. The chancel has a 15th-century open roof with a central truss, the tie-beam of which is cambered and moulded and has a carved boss in the centre of the lower face. The truss is strengthened with an iron tie-rod.

The chapel has a small apse, which opens out of the east wall from a tall pointed arch, with a plain splay, and projects slightly beyond the wall as three sides of an octagon. Externally the splayed sides are original 13th-century work, but in the latter part of the 17th

¹ Ibid. *Edw. VI*, iii, 187.

² Feet of F. Div. Co., East. 3 & 4 Phil. and Mary.

³ Pat. 13 Eliz. pt. 6, m. 40.

⁴ Pat. 35 Eliz. pt. 3, m. 22.

⁵ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 529.

⁶ P.C.C. 27 Byrde. He is said to have held it of Sir William Garway: Dawson, *Hastings Castle*, ii, 371.

⁷ Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 4 Chas. I.

⁸ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 530.

⁹ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccxcv, 72.

¹⁰ Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 28 Chas. II.

¹¹ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 531.

¹² Ibid.; *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix), 222.

¹³ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 545.

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century the east side was refaced in brickwork and surmounted by a cornice with dentils. A modern brick chimney, for a stove placed within the apse, has been built against this side. The chimney blocks a window, the stone jambs of which can be traced inside. On the south side of the apse internally there is a small pointed recess, rising directly from the floor: the stonework is covered with plaster. In each of the north and west walls of the chapel is a tall 13th-century lancet with wide splays: and at the south end of the west wall there is a pointed doorway to the nave. On the south jamb of the doorway is a splayed impost which probably belonged to an early arch. The arch between the chancel and the chapel is now filled in with a 6 in. partition having a central doorway.

On the north side of the nave are three 15th-century windows, each of two trefoiled lights under a square head. Between the two westernmost windows is a low pointed doorway, blocked flush with the wall outside and showing as a recess inside. In the south wall are three windows, each of two cinquefoiled lights with tracery in a pointed head. The first and second windows are modern except for their labels and carved head-stops: the westernmost is an original 15th-century window with a modern mullion. The south doorway has a pointed head with continuous mouldings. The tower arch is pointed and of two chamfered orders springing from semi-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases. At the south-east corner of the nave, and partly projecting outside, is a stairway to the rood loft, now blocked. The entrance doorway from the nave and the doorway to the loft above it are in the south wall, the sill of the upper doorway being 9 ft. up from the floor of the nave: both doorways have pointed heads. A stone corbel to the right of the upper doorway, a little below the sill, was for the support of the rood loft, and opposite on the north wall of the nave is a corresponding corbel. The lower doorway is only 4 ft. 6 in. high to the apex of its head. Immediately to the right of the doorway is a piscina with a pointed head, which rises directly from the sill, and a rectangular bowl. This piscina occupies a somewhat unusual position, having the doorway between it and the east wall. The nave has a fine 15th-century trussed rafter roof of pointed barrel form, now strengthened with tie-rods: some of the rafters are moulded.

The porch is well preserved. On either side is a window of two trefoiled lights in a square head. On the south of the doorway to the nave are the remains of a stoup. The outer doorway has a pointed arch under a square head with carved rose and leaf ornament in the spandrels: the label has large crude head-stops. The trussed rafter roof is original.

The tower is of three stages supported by deep buttresses and surmounted by an embattled parapet and a pyramidal roof. At the north-west corner a stair turret rises above the parapet: a string-course divides the second stage from the bell-chamber. The west doorway has a pointed head with continuous mouldings and a label with returned stops. Above the doorway is a pointed window of three lights with modern tracery.

The second stage is lighted by a small pointed window on the north and south, and the bell-chamber on the east by a single trefoiled light and on each of the other sides by a window of two trefoiled lights in a square head, without a label.

The font, of the late 12th century, has a square bowl of Sussex marble and a large circular stem supported by four detached octagonal shafts, the shafts being of Caen stone. A continuous moulding is carried round the bases of the stem and of the shafts. The pulpit is modern but above it is a 17th-century oak sounding board, hexagonal in shape and carved at the edges. In the vestry is an oak table with baluster legs of about 1600: modern extensions have been added at the sides. The altar rails are of the same period. In the nave is a dug-out oak chest with a modern cover. A medieval tomb slab with indents for brasses of a large tau cross and an inscription lies before the threshold of the porch. In the east window are some remains of 15th-century glass, representing the coronation of the Blessed Virgin.¹

There are five bells; all were by W. and T. Mears, 1789, with rhyming inscriptions,² but three of them were recast in 1899.

The church plate consists of a silver cup of 1640 and a silver paten cover; the paten cover has no hall marks but is inscribed 'This Cope and Cover doth Belong to the Parish of Hoe in the Countie of Sussex'.³

The register begins in 1609.

The description of Hooe in 1086 *ADFOVSON* included a chapel (*ecclesiola*)⁴ which was granted shortly afterwards by Robert Count of Eu to the college of St. Mary in the Castle in aid of the prebend of Wartling; but a little later Hooe became a distinct prebend with the churches of Ninfield and Wartling attached.⁵ Between 1217 and 1222, however, three separate prebends were formed from these, though they were still frequently served by one canon.⁶ A vicarage was ordained before 1291, when it was worth £4 13s. 4d., the whole prebend being valued at £16 13s. 4d.⁷ In 1535 the prebend of Hooe, held by Robert Phipps, was worth £3.⁸ On the suppression of the college 'the late prebend of Hoo' fell to Sir Anthony Browne,⁹ but shortly afterwards passed by grant or purchase to John Upton, who in 1586 received licence to alienate it to John Levett and his son,¹⁰ to whom he had already conveyed the rectory in 1558. John senior settled it on his son in 1605¹¹ and the latter in 1614 granted the prebend and rectory, excepting the advowson of the vicarage, to Thomas Brooke of the Middle Temple,¹² and he sold it for £75 to Thomas Hart, who died seised of it in 1635.¹³ His son David sold it in 1661 to Sir John Pelham,¹⁴ in whose family the rectory remained,¹⁵ descending with the rape.

The advowson of the vicarage was granted or sold by the Levetts before 1625 to William Relfe.¹⁶ From him it passed to Francis Viscount Montagu,¹⁷ whose descendant in 1721 sold it to Sir Thomas Webster. In his family it remained until 1846, when the patronage was held successively by the Rev. T. R. Jones and

¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* liii, pl. 9.

² *Ibid.* xvi, 213.

³ *Ibid.* lv, 193.

⁴ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 395b.

⁵ *Anct. D. (P.R.O.)*, D. 1073; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiii, 135.

⁶ *Ibid.* 144; *Cal. Pat.* 1361-4, p. 461;

ibid. 1374-7, p. 340.

⁷ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 104b.

⁸ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiii, 144.

⁹ *Pat.* 38 Hen. VIII, pt. 13, m. 11.

¹⁰ *Pat.* 29 Eliz. pt. 18, m. 22.

¹¹ Dawson, *Hastings Castle*, ii, 372.

¹² L.T.R. Mem. R. Hil. 12 Jas. I, ro.

¹⁴ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 222.

¹³ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccclxxv, no. 66.

¹⁴ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 531.

¹⁵ Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 8 Geo. III.

¹⁶ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

Mr. A. Jones. The latter bequeathed it in 1876 to his grandson Archibald Weir, on whose death in 1879 it was sold to Mr. O. F. Routh. He was succeeded by his son the Rev. Cuthbert Routh, M.A.¹ The present patrons are Mrs. Fisher and the Misses Routh.

The Commissioners in their report *CHARITIES* of 1837 state that in Gilbert's Returns there is a charity set down to this parish, but from an extract from a rental renewed in 1629 supplied by the steward of the manor of Hooe it

appears that the land referred to is held by the churchwardens and their successors in right of the parish.

The Village Hall is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 25 November 1930, which appoints as trustees the parish council of Hooe, in whom the property is vested, and provides that the trustees shall permit the hall to be used as reading or general recreation rooms, or for such other purposes, without distinction of sect or religious denomination, as the trustees shall decide.

NINFIELD

Nerewelle (xi cent.); Nymenfeld (xiii cent.); Neme-feld (xiv cent.); Nenfeild (xvii cent.).

Ninfield, a parish containing 2,619 acres of land, is situated on the road from Battle to Hailsham, being $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Battle, which is the nearest station. This road on reaching the centre of the village divides, one branch going south-west to Hooe and Pevensey, and the other south-east to Bexhill. The village stands picturesquely on the top of a hill and commands wide views. The general slope of the land is from south to north, Standard Hill, 200 ft., being the highest point in the parish. The mention of William atte Standard in the Subsidy Roll for 1327 shows that the name existed at least 600 years ago.² The river Ashburn forms the western boundary of the parish, dividing it from Wartling. The low-lying land was liable to flood, and in 1341 'the greater part of the cultivated land called Morhale' had been submerged. At that time 130 acres were lying uncultivated on account of the poverty of the inhabitants.³

Under some old pine trees just north of the church there still remain the village stocks, an excellent example of massive Sussex ironwork. A square post with pyramid top and slight enrichment has stapled against it three handcuffs on one side, a single one on the other. Two heavy bars, the upper hinged to the post, whose far ends are supported on a much lower second post, are pierced with four leg-holes of different sizes.

The most interesting domestic building in the parish is Standard Hill Farm. The house is remarkable for its severe puritan rendering of the ordinary Jacobean tradition. The façade, facing north, of the plainest brickwork, presents three gables coming down much lower at the sides than in the valleys. There are three stories with the simplest of mullioned windows and on either side of the central doorway is an oriel window going through the two lower stories. Ornament is entirely eschewed, but on three separate stones are the inscriptions:

GODS PROVIDENCE IS MYN INHERITANCE
EXCEPT THE LORD BVILD THE HOVSE TH
EY LABOUR IN VAIN THAT BVILD IT
HERE WE HAVE 1659 NO ABIDINCE

The framework of the four-bay barn, whose roof has sloping queen-posts, may be contemporary with the house. It has the usual central doors and a passage

aisle on one side, but the walls are hung with tarred clap-boards and the roof is covered with slates.⁴

Lower Standard Hill Farm is an exceedingly good specimen of a type of early-18th-century oblong brick house of which the neighbourhood is rather rich in examples. Over the central doorway, which has bold bolection mouldings in stone, is 17 GL 02. The channelled stone quoins have one course carried right across the façade to form a wide string-course between the two stories. The high-pitched tiled roof rises from a widely projecting wooden cornice with perfectly plain corbels. The square-headed windows have flat brick arches and leaded panes of glass. The walls are of red brick with a sparing use of glazed blue ones in simple pattern. At the ends are the usual chimneys, with re-used moulded stone windows of the 17th century built in on either side. The rooms within are rather featureless except that heavy beams cross the ceilings. There is a good stair with small turned rails.

By the Divided Parishes Act of 1882 part of Ashburnham was annexed to Ninfield parish. There are Methodist and Calvinist chapels in the village, and a Salvation Army mission hall.

The subsoil is clay, and there is a good deal of woodland, including Hurst Wood, Sprays Wood, Court Wood, and Combe Wood. Good wheat and oats are grown. Brick-making is carried on in the parish, and there were important tanneries from the 17th century until 1886.⁵

In 1086 *NINFIELD*, consisting of *MANORS* 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hides, was held by Robert Count of Eu⁶ and the overlordship followed the descent of the rape (q.v.).

Robert 'the cook' was then holding 'the seat of the manor' with 2 virgates in demesne and a church.⁷ From this date there is no actual mention of a manor of Ninfield and it is therefore probable that the manorial rights were merged in those of Moorhall.

The manor of *MOORHALL* [Morehale (xiv cent.)] was held for half a fee.

The first recorded owner of the manor is Robert de Crevequer, who apparently held the half fee in the 13th century.⁸ Later, however, it passed to the family of de Septvans, and Robert de Septvans died seised of the manor in 1306,⁹ leaving a son William, who held it till his death in 1323.¹⁰ He was followed by a second William, who appears in the Subsidy Rolls of 1327 and 1332 as the largest landowner in Ninfield.¹¹ He died

¹ Clergy Lists.

² The tradition that William the Conqueror set up his standard here on the way from Hastings to Battle ignores geographical probabilities.

³ *Inq. Non.* (Rec. Com.), 371.

⁴ A better example of an old Sussex barn is to be seen at Ingrams Farm. This is roughly framed of rather miscellaneous timbers, the roof having heavily bracketed tie-beams and collars above; there is one aisle.

⁵ *Suss. N. and Q.* i, 175.

⁶ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 396a.

⁸ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 102.

⁹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iv, 349.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* vi, 414; *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 102.

¹¹ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, 209, 320.

⁷ *Ibid.*

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in 1351 leaving a son aged five, the king's ward, who complained in 1366 that by a false statement of age, his lands having been delivered to him, 'he had been led away and counselled to alienate them' to certain of his associates. On the finding of the jury that he was under age his inheritance was again taken into the king's hands and his grants annulled.¹ After the death of William de Septvans in 1407 his son William alienated Moorhall, which was conveyed by trustees to James Fiennes, Lord Say and Sele,² who was beheaded in 1451.³ His estates were



SEPTVANS. *Azure three winnowing fans or.*

forfeited and shortly afterwards Moorhall was granted to Thomas Winslow, and he appears to have sold it to Thomas Lord Hoo,⁴ who was holding Moorhall in 1470.⁵ Upon his death in 1486 the estate passed to Elizabeth, youngest daughter of his half-brother Sir Thomas Hoo. Elizabeth married first Sir Thomas Massingberd and secondly Sir John Devenish, and for a time it was held by Ann Massingberd, presumably her daughter.⁶ Sir Richard Devenish, son of Elizabeth and John, died seised of it in 1542, having previously settled the manor on his son Thomas and his wife Ann.⁷ In 1549 Thomas and William conveyed the manor to trustees,⁸



WENHAM. *Paly argent and gules a chief azure with a lion passant argent crowned or thereon.*

apparently for sale to John Wenham, whose brother William had acquired a lease of it in 1547,⁹ and in whose family it remained for more than a century. About 1620, however, John Wenham, probably grandson of the above, and Mary his wife mortgaged the estate to Sir George Farewell and his son for £1,600.¹⁰ Presumably only part of the mortgage was paid off, as in 1661 a moiety of the manor only was in the possession of John Wenham, who paid a castle-guard rent of 8d., Richard Luxford paying 7d. for the other part.¹¹ In 1668 John Wenham conveyed the whole of Moorhall to John Luxford,¹² whose widow Anne, *née* Dunke, apparently married secondly Thomas Raye and was holding the manor with him in 1686.¹³ After her death it seems to have passed to a number of co-heirs, being held in 1693 by Sir Thomas Dyke, John Fuller, and Bryan, Denny, Edward, Frances, Beatrice and Mary Dunke.¹⁴ From 1717 to 1725 castle-guard rent was paid in part by these heirs of Luxford,¹⁵ but from 1731 onwards part payment of 1s. 1d. was made by Mrs. Mary Peckham, probably a surviving Dunke heiress, and the remaining payment of 3s. 2d. by the trustees of William Worrall.¹⁶ After 1768 the whole estate was acquired by the trustees of Worrall's Charity and has since remained in their hands.

It is probable that the name *INGRAMS* [Ingrahams (xv cent.); Yngrames (xvi cent.)] originated with the first holders of the land. In 1264 Robert and

Andrew Ingeram were jurors in an inquisition held at Ninfield,¹⁷ and their names appear in the Subsidy Roll of 1296. Another Robert and William Ingeram were assessed in 1327 for land here, as was five years later Stephen Ingeram in 1332.¹⁸ In 1376 John Wylesham and Christine his wife granted land in Ninfield to John Ingeram and Margaret his wife¹⁹ and in 1458 William Ingeram is returned as owner of the estate, then for the first time called a manor.²⁰ There is no further record of Ingrams until 1571, by which time it had passed to Gregory Fiennes Lord Dacre,²¹ and from this date it followed the descent of Herstmonceux (q.v.) until 1776, when it was sold by Robert Hare to Mr. Isaac Landsell for £1,600,²² after which the manorial rights probably lapsed. A survey taken in 1570 gives the following description of the estate: 'There is no manor house but a mean thatched house with a kitchen, orchard with garden, and curtilage containing half an acre of land. The freeholders claim to hold their lands without paying heriot. The whole estate consists of a farm and no copyholds or other commodities. The Lord Buckhurst hath the royalty as parcel of his hundred of Bexhill.'²³

The church of *ST. MARY* consists of *CHURCH* a chancel, organ-chamber, north vestry, nave, north aisle, south porch, and timber bell-turret over the west bay of the nave. The chancel and nave are built of stone, the nave being coated with cement, and the porch of brick: the modern work is of stone, and the roofs generally are tiled.

The oldest part of the existing fabric is the nave, which probably dates from the 13th century. The bell-turret was built about 1395. Early in the 15th century the nave was restored and re-roofed and its windows and south doorway were rebuilt in the manner of the period. The chancel was rebuilt, or refaced, in the 17th century and it has been remodelled again in recent years. The porch was built in 1735 and in 1754 the roofs of the church were inclosed by ceilings, since removed.²⁴ The north aisle, organ-chamber, and vestry are modern.

The chancel is lighted by modern lancets, three in the east wall, one in the north wall, and two in the south wall. Reset in a shallow recess on the outside face of the south wall is a plain pointed arch, composed of two large stones with a joint at the apex. It is inscribed I.B. 1671, the date being that at which it was reset, and was probably the arch of a priest's doorway. The chancel arch and the arch to the organ-chamber are modern.

On the north side of the nave is a cumbrous arcade of three arches springing from circular pillars with scalloped capitals, built in 1885. On the south side are three windows and a pointed doorway: all except the westernmost window of early-15th-century date. The first two windows, each of two trefoiled lights in a square head, have been restored, but the stonework of the third window has been completely renewed. The doorway has continuous mouldings of two orders. The outer doorway of the porch has a round head with a

¹ Chan. Inq. p.m. 40 Edw. III (2nd nos.), 1.

² Ibid. 29 Hen. VI, no. 11.

³ G.E.C. *Peerage* (1st ed.), vii, 65.

⁴ E. Chan. Proc. bde. 40, no. 20.

⁵ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 22.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), lxvii, 108.

⁸ Feet of F. Suss. East. 3 Edw. VI.

⁹ Ibid. Trin. 1 Eliz.; Cal. Drake Coll.

D. (Suss. Arch. Trust), 51.

¹⁰ Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 18 Jas. I; Add. MS. 5680, fol. 47.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 20-1 Chas. II.

¹³ Ibid. Mich. 2 Jas. II.

¹⁴ Ibid. Mich. 5 Will. and Mary.

¹⁵ Add. MS. 5680, fol. 22.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* vi, 216.

¹⁸ *Subsidies* (Suss. Rec. Soc. x), 6, 209, 320.

¹⁹ Feet of F. Suss. 50 Edw. III, no. 73.

²⁰ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 74.

²¹ *Recov. R. Trin. Eliz.* ro. 1150.

²² Add. MS. 5679, fol. 74.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ See inscription on flagon, below.

keystone dated 1735. Old corbels have been re-used to support the seats on either side of the porch. In the west wall of the nave is a pointed doorway of uncertain date with a plain chamfer and above the doorway a modern window of two lights.

Above the west bay of the nave, with its floor in line with the wall-plates of the roof, is a minstrel's gallery, constructed in the 17th century. The floor is supported on large oak beams and it is divided by a partition, running north and south, into the gallery proper, 11 ft. wide by 5 ft. 6 in. deep, and a narrow compartment west of it: the latter was probably used by the ringer of the bell in the turret above. The approach was by means of a ladder to a trap-door in the floor of the narrow compartment and thence by a door in the partition to the gallery itself. The front of the gallery at the east is protected by a wood moulded rail, 2 ft. 7 in. high, with flat wave-shaped balusters. The roof of the nave has been reset, but it retains its fine king-post trusses and wall-plates; the tie-beams and wall-plates have moulded edges and the king-posts moulded capitals and bases. The turret, which rises slightly above the nave roof, is boarded at the sides and is surmounted by a pyramidal roof: it contains a clock.

Rebuilt on the apex of the west gable of the aisle is a large lantern-shaped finial of ironstone, octagonal in shape and pierced on all sides.

The font in present use is modern, but in the north aisle is a small stone font of the 17th century. The bowl of this font, shaped like an inverted bell, is 17 in. square and has a lead-lined basin 9½ in. in diameter: the stem and splayed base are also square, the stem having chamfered edges. The east wall of the chancel is covered by a dado of 17th-century oak panelling consisting of elliptically headed panels, divided by fluted pilasters and surmounted by carved ornament. Over the chancel arch are the royal arms of James I. Affixed to the south wall of the chancel is a brass inscription to Anne, died 1672, and Elizabeth, died 1673, daughters of John Bowyer, clerk. In the churchyard, south of the church, is an ancient yew tree.

In the turret is a bell of about 1395. It is inscribed, in 'black letter' characters, *Hic Est Martinus Quem Saluet Trinus Et Unus*. A medallion, bearing the words on the margin *William Foundor me fecit* and having two birds with floral ornament in the centre, occurs after each word, and at the end is a crest composed of fleurs de lis. On the crown are three shields each bearing a chevron between three lavers.¹

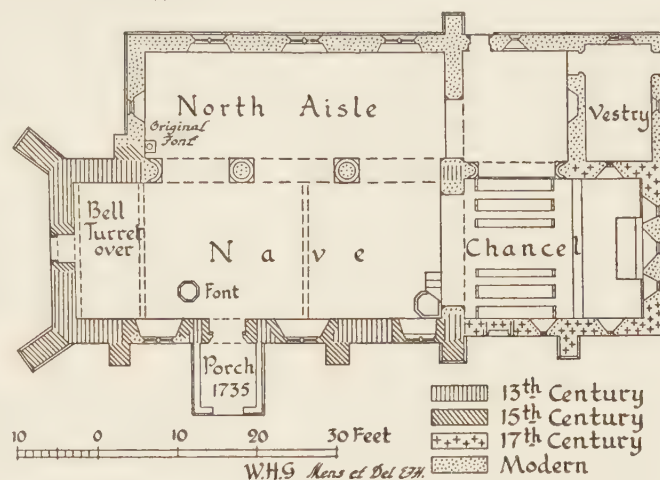
The church plate consists of a silver cup of 1699; a silver paten of 1699; and a silver flagon of 1754. The flagon is inscribed 'William Budd of Ninfield gave this Piece of Plate for ye use of ye communion service to ye Honour of God and ye Glory of my Redeemer Jesus Christ as a sacrifice. Also Sealed ye Church in ye year 1754.'²

The registers begin in 1663.

A church existed at Ninfield in 1086³ which shortly afterwards was granted by Robert Count of Eu as part endowment of the prebend of *ADVOWSON* Wartling attached to the college of St. Mary, Hastings.⁴ It was later transferred to the prebend of Hooe,⁵ but at the beginning of the thirteenth century a separate prebend of Ninfield was formed⁶ which in 1291 was valued at £16 13s. 4d., a vicarage having been ordained worth £4 6s. 8d.⁷ In 1547 it was granted with the college of Hastings to Sir Anthony Browne.⁸ The living appears to have been the gift of various patrons during the next fifty years, probably by grants of single turns.

From 1655 the church is called a rectory. In that year the case of Edward Nathley, 'sequestered from fellow-

PARISH CHURCH of ST. MARY NINFIELD



ship in Cambridge and lately presented to the rectory of Ninfield', was referred to Commissioners 'to learn his submission to the Government and his fitness to preach'.⁹

Sir Thomas Dyke held the advowson from 1660 till 1676,¹⁰ when he conveyed it to trustees.¹¹ By 1708 it had been acquired by Lord Ashburnham,¹² in whose family it remained until 1832, when it passed to the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury,¹³ who still hold it.

The Rev. John Phillips, by his will *CHARITIES* proved in London on 16 January 1854, gave £200 Stock to the rector and churchwardens, the income to be applied in the purchase of bread for the poor of the parish. The endowment produces annually £5.

Mrs. Mary Phillips, by her will proved in London on 3 January 1862, gave £200, the income to be applied by the rector and churchwardens in money, food, or clothing to 6 poor deserving widows. The endowment produces annually £5 6s. 8d.

The Christian Mission Hall, founded by deed dated 6 August 1879, is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 8 April 1930, which provides that the hall shall be held upon the same trusts as 'The Wesleyan Chapel Model Deed'.

Hugh Sydney Egerton, by deed dated 28 February

¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 147-8, 219; lvii, 15.

² *Ibid.* lv, 193-4.

³ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 396a.

⁴ *Anct. Deeds* (P.R.O.), D. 1073.

⁵ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiii, 144.

⁶ *Ibid.* 144.

⁷ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 137b.

⁸ *Pat.* 38 Hen. VIII, pt. 13, m. 11.

⁹ *Cal. S. P. Dom.* 1655, pp. 50, 68.

¹⁰ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

¹¹ Feet of F. *Suss. Hil.* 28-9 Chas. II.

¹² *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.); *Recov. R. Hil.* 25 Geo. III, ro. 334; *ibid.* East. 53 Geo. III, ro. 17.

¹³ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvii, 61.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

1921, conveyed to trustees a piece of land to be used as a Village Hall.

Frances Brown, by her will proved in London on 4 April 1923, gave to the rector and churchwardens £100 to be invested, the income to be applied in keeping the grave in which she and her husband are buried and the memorial stone thereon in decent condition,

and any small balance of income to be applied to any parochial purpose at their discretion. The endowment produces about £4 10s. per annum.

H. F. Wrenn in 1930, during his lifetime, gave to the rector £50, the income to be applied towards the upkeep of the churchyard. The endowment produces about £1 per annum.

THE HUNDRED OF SHOYSWELL

CONTAINING THE PARISH OF

TICEHURST

ESSSESWELLE Hundred in 1086 contained the single estate of 'Haslesse', whose manorial hall was situated within the bounds of the hundred and, as in Henhurst Hundred, a much larger group of estates which in King Edward's time had been attached to manors in the rape of Pevensey, namely Chalvington, Sherrington, Alciston, Ratton, Winton Street, Willingdon, Ripe, West Firle, Jevington, Eckington, Laughton, 'Burgelstaltone' (probably in Ratton), and 'Dene' (? West Dean).¹ This, combined with the fact that the hundred is said never to have paid geld, points to the hundred having been constituted, and probably deliberately colonized, at a comparatively late date.²

Shoyswell itself is in Etchingham,³ the northern half of which parish is in this hundred, as is a small part of Burwash. Detached portions of the Kentish parishes of Lamberhurst and Hawkhurst, now absorbed into Wadhurst and Etchingham respectively, were also included in the hundred in 1662.⁴

The above estates belonged to the lands of the Count of Eu in 1086 and the hundred subsequently descended with the honour of Hastings.⁵

From the 13th century onwards the hundred was divided into the villis or tithings of Ticehurst, Pashley, and Hoadley or Hothley,⁶ of which the last named seems to have comprised the western portion, as it included Witherenden and Bricklehurst.⁷ In 1275 it was said that the hundred used to give 2s. of common fine at 'Laweday' and its brewers to be quit; but the bailiffs of Hastings had taken to extorting 10s. and yet the brewers were amerced.⁸

¹ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 400-3.

² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxxii, 23.

³ *Place-Names of Suss.* (Place-Name Soc.), 450. The hundreds of Shoyswell and Henhurst both met here in 1415; *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxvii, p. xxiii.

⁴ *Lay Subs.* 258, no. 21.

⁵ As for Henhurst Hundred; *Cal. Pat.* 1461-7, p. 138; *Add. Chart.* 30049; *Pat.* 11 Eliz. pt. 3; *Suss. Inq. p.m.* (*Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxiii), no. 83.

⁶ *Subsidies* (*Suss. Rec. Soc.* x), 10, 220, 331. Cf. *Assize Rolls*.

⁷ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxvii, 189, 193.

⁸ *Hund. R.* (*Rec. Com.*), ii, 216.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

TICEHURST

Tycheherst (xi–xiv cent.); Thicheshurst, Tycheshurst (xiii–xiv cent.); Tysseherst, Tycehurst (xv cent.); Tysehurst (xv–xvi cent.).

Until 1836 the civil and ecclesiastical parishes of Ticehurst coincided; but in 1836 Stonegate and in 1839 Flimwell were made into chapelries and after-

These were identical in 1742; and Kersteman gives an account of beating the bounds in 1779.² Into the present boundary the River Rother and streams Limden, Beult, and Hook all enter. The height is very varied, ranging from 200 to 500 ft. The soil is mostly clay and the subsoil Hastings Beds; the crops include hops, and there is much pasture. There are evidences of ironworks from Roman times.³

The village of Ticehurst is beautifully situated on a gentle slope among valleys and hills, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles north-east from Ticehurst Road station on the Southern Railway. The church stands to the south-east of the cross-roads round which the village is built. The Institute and library were constructed in 1899 by Mrs. Campbell Newington. In 1542 a parishioner left funds for purchase of a fair to be kept at Ticehurst 'grene or strett'.⁴ No more is heard of this, but licence for two yearly fairs was given to Thomas Pelham, lord of the rape, in 1600,⁵ and fairs were still held on 4 May and 7 October in 1888,⁶ but are no longer held. The parish was concerned in the Barons' War in 1264⁷ and in Jack Cade's rising two centuries after.⁸ Later it was a smuggling centre.⁹

In the village are several houses of interest. The east range of Beech House, on the south of the road, incorporates a 15th-century hall, with a first floor and chimney-stack inserted about 1600. The interior has moulded ceiling-beams of 15th- and 17th-century date, and the roof retains an original cambered tie-beam with octagonal king-post, and other smoke-blackened timbers. On the north side of the road 'The Yett' has also developed from a 15th-century hall, altered in the same way and refaced with brick, but retaining original timbering in the gabled east wall, which has an overhanging first floor. Inside much of the timber-framing is visible, and the roof retains two bays, each 11 ft. 6 in. wide, divided by a cambered tie-beam with octagonal king-post; a similar beam and plain square king-post mark the west bay.

Near the north gate of the churchyard Cooper's Stores, though mainly of the 18th century, has a timber-framed back range of c. 1600, in the remodelled roof of which are many original timbers, and an enriched barge-board with the initials W.M. and date 1605. A butcher's shop opposite this gate, though much altered, retains some 16th-century work in the roof and has ceiling-beams and exposed joists on both floors. Another butcher's shop, just east of Beech House, and the Bell Hotel are among the more important houses of early-17th-century date.

Wardsbrook Farm lies $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of the church.

wards ecclesiastical parishes.¹ The population of the civil parish was 2,853 in 1921, but had fallen to 2,650 in 1931. The area of the civil parish is 8,250 acres land, 15 water. The Rev. A. Kersteman, assistant curate about 1794 and author of *Some Account of Ticehurst, Sussex, compiled from the Parish Registers and other papers*, gave the boundaries from a document of 1451: 'from Gelards well by the water to Wardsbrigge and on to Aple Dorys brigge and on to Wabrigge gate; then cross over the Long down to Hartwell as the stream leads to Little Citchinham and by the Park to Crabden.'

¹ Hodson, *Ticehurst*, 118. Flimwell, said to mean 'the fugitives' spring' (*Suss. Place-Names*, 452), is on the borders of Kent and Sussex.

² Hodson, *op. cit.* 14 ff.

³ *V.C.H. Suss.* iii, 31.

⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxxii, 139.

⁵ *Pat.* 42 Eliz. pt. 13.

⁶ *Roy. Com. Market Rights*, 211.

⁷ Hodson, *op. cit.* 31–2.

⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1446–52, pp. 340, 362.

⁹ Hodson, *op. cit.* 185.



TICEHURST CHURCH



TICEHURST: WHILIGH, SOUTH FRONT



TICEHURST: BOARZELL, 1785
(From a drawing in the Burrell Collections)

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

descendants the lords of Etchingam (q.v.) received grants of free warren here.¹

How long the Echingshams held Boarzell is not clear. It seems to have passed to the family of Haremere, who were holding land in the neighbourhood, by 1316. William de Haremere held the manor in 1432.² It was, later, in the possession of the Roberts family, who held land in the parish by 1488, when Walter Roberts received licence to impark land and wood in Cranbrook and Goudhurst, Kent, and Ticehurst.³ In 1557 Thomas Roberts was concerned with a water-mill and lands in the parish,⁴ as was Walter Roberts with a windmill and lands in 1624.⁵ Walter died here in 1632, and his son John⁶ died at Boarzell in 1639 seised of this capital messuage and another here called Dalehill.⁷ His son Walter was concerned with the manor, definitely so called, in 1683⁸ and died in 1700. John Roberts,⁹ who died in 1728, was followed by a son John who lived at Boarzell. His son John succeeded in 1732 and died in 1741.¹⁰ Until 1783 we find mention of Samuel Roberts of Boarzell, and then two more Johns,¹¹ John Roberts of Stone House, Warbleton, being proprietor in Horsfield's time.¹² The Roberts alienated the property in 1859, when their ancient mansion was demolished.¹³



ROBERTS. *Azure a chevron argent with three molets sable thereon.*

A knight's fee in *BRICKLEHURST* [Breycleherst (xiii cent.); Brixleherst (xiii–xiv cent.); Brikelherst (xiv cent.)] and Sedlescombe, once held by Peter de Scotney, was held in 1320 and 1342 by William de Ore.¹⁴ The manor descended with Ore (q.v.) to Henry Halle,¹⁵ but by 1469 it was held of the manor of Hammerden by John Wybarne,¹⁶ who died in Feb. 1489–90.¹⁷ He was younger son of John Wybarne of Hawkwell in Pembury, Kent, had property at Maplesden in Ticehurst, and died whilst he was building a house near the church. In this house a priest was to have free lodging, provided he sang a *De Profundis* for John's soul every night. John's son and heir removed to Bayhall, Kent.¹⁸ In 1591 John Wybarne of Pembury died seised of the manor of Bricklehurst.¹⁹ His son William dying in 1612, left as heir a nephew, Edward son of his brother John,²⁰ who was succeeded in 1624 by his son Benjamin.²¹ He, with Edward Wybarne, made a settlement of this manor in 1632.²² John Wybarne was con-

cerned with the manor in 1682.²³ In 1788 Thomas May of Pashley,²⁴ and Mary his wife, conveyed the manor to George Courthope, jun., and William Constable;²⁵ and from this time Bricklehurst descends with Pashley²⁶ (q.v.).

The manor of *HAMMERDEN* [Homerden (xiii cent.); Hamerdene (xiii–xv cent.)] belonged to the honour of Hastings in 1280.²⁷ In 1320 it was stated that the knight's fee here was one of 9 fees formerly held by Peter de Scotney.²⁸

John of Brittany, Earl of Richmond, granted the manor to Bertram de Monboucher and Joan his wife, Edward II confirming in 1310,²⁹ and it descended with Filsham in Hollington (q.v.) to Judith wife of Anthony Apsley,³⁰ who with her husband in 1606 conveyed the manor to John Lunsford,³¹ a relative.³² In 1612 the 'heirs of Bernard Randolph' held the manor;³³ but for some unstated reason James I granted it in 1614 to Robert Morley and John Baker in fee;³⁴ and they conveyed it to Thomas Aynscombe.³⁵ These transactions were probably for purposes of settlement,³⁶ as early in the next reign Anthony Apsley was in possession.³⁷ By 1636³⁸ and in 1655 the manor was in the hands of Anthony's son Henry.³⁹ It then descended with the manor of Cortesley in Hollington (q.v.), until on the death of John Apsley Dalrymple in 1833 it was purchased by G. C. Courthope⁴⁰ of Whiligh, ancestor of the present owner, Sir George Loyd Courthope, bart.⁴¹

Two fees in *PASHLEY*⁴² and La Forde, of which Pashley apparently accounted for one, formed part of nine fees held in the early 13th century by Peter de Scotney.⁴³ The overlordship descended with the rape.

Elias de Passeley occurs as witness to a Robertsbridge deed in about 1185,⁴⁴ and in 1272 Robert de Passeley, probably the son of Giles who is mentioned in the same deed, and Sarah his wife obtained tenements in Ticehurst and other places.⁴⁵ In 1298 Robert's son Edmund, a prominent court official,⁴⁶ received a grant of free warren in Pashley and his other Sussex demesnes.⁴⁷ He held, in 1320, 1½ fees in Pashley and La Forde;⁴⁸ and a few days before his death in 1326–7 he enfeoffed Robert, his son by his second wife Margaret, of this manor, John being his eldest son.⁴⁹ In 1343 Thomas de Passeley, brother of Robert, was holding one fee in Ticehurst;⁵⁰ but Robert's son Robert in 1366 made a settlement of the manors of Pashley, Whiligh, and others.⁵¹ It then descended with the manor of Moat in Iden (q.v.) to John Passeley, on whom feoffees settled the manor in

¹ *Cal. Chart. R.* 1226–57, p. 416; *ibid.* 1257–1300, p. 461.

² Information from Mr. S. P. Vivian, quoting the Dunn MSS. at Hove.

³ *Cal. Chart. R.* 1427–1516, p. 268.

⁴ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 4 & 5 P. and M.

⁵ *Ibid.* Hil. 22 Jas. I.

⁶ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xiv, no. 883.

⁷ *Ibid.* no. 884.

⁸ *Ibid.* xix, p. 55.

⁹ Concerned with the manor 1710 (*ibid.*).

¹⁰ Hodson, *op. cit.* 137–9.

¹¹ *Ibid.*; *Recov. R.* Hil. 24 Geo. II, ro. 59.

¹² *Suss. i.* 589.

¹³ Hodson, *loc. cit.* The site of the house is marked by the remains of a moat.

¹⁴ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 405, p. 102; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, p. 232.

¹⁵ *Rent. and Surv. (P.R.O.)*, 658.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ Brass in Ticehurst Church, see below.

¹⁸ Hodson, *op. cit.* 53–4. Cf. *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* viii, App. i, 335b.

¹⁹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccxxix, 144.

²⁰ *Ibid.* cccxl, 183.

²¹ *Ibid.* cccvii, 103.

²² *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 62.

²³ *Recov. R.* Mich. 34 Chas. II, ro. 111.

²⁴ See below.

²⁵ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 62.

²⁶ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* i, 1185.

²⁷ *Ibid.* ii, 405, p. 102.

²⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1307–13, p. 269.

²⁹ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxiii, no. 205; *ibid.* xiv, no. 871.

³⁰ *Ibid.* xix, 198.

³¹ Cf. *Cal. Drake Coll. D.* (Suss. Arch. Trust, Lewes), no. 263.

³² *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccxl, 183.

³³ *Pat. 12 Jas. I.*, pt. 4; *Exch. Dep. Suss. Mich.* 23 Chas. II, no. 33.

³⁴ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 198.

³⁵ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiv, 115.

³⁶ *Ibid.* xvi, 47.

³⁷ *Cal. Ingram Coll. (Lewes)*, no. 136.

³⁸ *Cal. Drake Coll. A.* (Suss. Arch. Trust, Lewes), no. 234.

³⁹ Hodson, *op. cit.* 137.

⁴⁰ See below.

⁴¹ Pesselegh, Peseley (xiii cent.); Passelegh, Passeley (xiii–xiv cent.); Passele (xiv cent.). In the 16th century it was sometimes called Great Pashley to distinguish it from Pashley in Eastbourne.

⁴² *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 405 (p. 102).

⁴³ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley (Hist. MSS. Com.)*, i, 49.

⁴⁴ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* vii, no. 807.

⁴⁵ *Dict. Nat. Biog.* (where he is confused with the entirely distinct family of Passelewe). Cf. *Suss. N. & Q.* vi, 129.

⁴⁶ *Cal. Chart. R.* 1257–1300, p. 474.

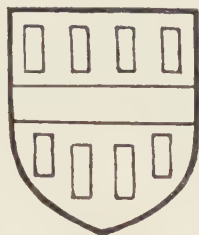
⁴⁷ Alan de Bokeselle held the other half fee: *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, p. 102.

⁴⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vii, no. 32.

⁴⁹ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 1858.

⁵⁰ *Add. Chart.* 41853.

1455.¹ John Lewkenor and Joan his wife conveyed the manor, apparently held in right of Joan, in 1463 to trustees,² who conveyed it to Geoffrey Boleyn, who died seised the same year leaving a son and heir Thomas.³ The younger son, Sir William, held Pashley in 1489. His eldest son Thomas, who held a court here in 1518,⁴ was father of Queen Anne Boleyn, and was created Earl of Wiltshire. His brother and heir Sir James Boleyn succeeded in 1538,⁵ and in 1543 quitclaimed the manor to Thomas May and his son Thomas.⁶ Thomas May 'of Ticehurst' died seised, presumably in 1552, leaving a son Thomas,⁷ who in 1610 was succeeded by his son Anthony,⁸ Sheriff of Sussex in 1629. Anthony was succeeded here in 1624 by his son Edward,⁹ who left children, Thomas, Edward, and Susanna, successively owners of Pashley.¹⁰ Edward the younger died in 1693. Susanna, who married Sir Richard May, died in 1718.¹¹



MAY. *Gules a fesse between eight billets or.*

Francis May of Pashley made a settlement in 1749¹² and died in 1759, his son Henry, concerned with Richard Hollist with the manor in 1789,¹³ in 1795.¹⁴ This line of May ended in an heiress, Caroline, only surviving child of Thomas May, who married the Rev. Richard Wetherell of Pashley and died in 1833, her husband surviving till 1858. Their son Nathan left daughters Susan Margaret Darby, who died 1911, and Harriet Elizabeth Wetherell, who died 1921, when the property passed to Dr. Gerald Wetherell Capon Hollist, younger son of Ellen Lydia Wetherell and Lt.-Col. Edward Ommaney Hollist of Lodsworth Hall. He died in 1922,¹⁵ and Pashley was sold to E. T. King, esq., the present owner.

In 1366 Robert Passeley made a settlement of the manor of *WHILIGH*¹⁶ with that of Pashley.¹⁷ He granted 'all his land called Whiligh' to William Warde and Agnes his wife in 1372.¹⁸ Their grandson Thomas settled it in 1427 on Ralph Shoyswell and Elizabeth his wife, widow of Thomas Playsted and mother of two sons, Ralph Playsted and Roger Shoyswell, whose shares were purchased, in 1479 and 1501 respectively, by William Saunders of Goudhurst, who bequeathed this manor to his daughter and co-heir Elizabeth wife of John Courthope of Hartfield, in 1512.¹⁹ Katharine wife of Robert Hawkesley and grand-daughter of William Saunders claimed half²⁰ and started a suit that lasted till 1541;²¹ but the Courthopes have ever since 1513 retained the manor. In 1539 John Courthope granted Whiligh to his younger son George, whose

elder brother John released all right in 1541; George died in 1577; his son John rebuilt the manor-house, and died in 1615; the latter's son George, knighted 1641, died in 1642 and was followed by six generations of Georges until 1835. The first, knighted 1661, wrote *Memoirs*, published by the Royal Historical Society in 1907,²² and died in 1685. The last George's son George Campion Courthope was followed in 1895 by his son George John and he in 1910 by George Loyd Courthope, now of Whiligh, created a baronet in 1925, and the chief landowner in the parish.²³

At the Dissolution *BAREHURST* [Bereherst (xii-xvi cent.); Berhurst (xiii cent.); Bearhurst (xvii cent.)] was a manor belonging to Battle Abbey and in the tenure of John Gascocyn.²⁴ Later it is only referred to as a farm. Tenements here passed with the site of the abbey to Sir Anthony Browne in 1539.²⁵



COURTHOPE. *Argent a fesse azure between three stars sable.*

Several religious houses held tenements. In the 13th century Combwell Priory, Kent, received grants of 'all the land of Colinton',²⁶ and of part of Braumden.²⁷ In 1409 the abbey leased land at Flimwell,²⁸ and it held land there, with tenements still called Highlands, at the Dissolution.²⁹ They were granted with the site of the priory in tail male to Thomas Colepeper in 1537,³⁰ and although these lands were forfeited on his execution, as the lover of Katherine Howard, in 1541 and granted to Sir John Gage, they came by exchange in 1543 to another Thomas Colepeper³¹ and remained in possession of the Colepepers as part of Combwell Manor in Goudhurst, Kent.³²

Bayham Abbey had lands in the parish;³³ while from the 12th century onwards Robertsbridge Abbey had lands at Hoadley,³⁴ and, by grant of Alvred de St. Martin, at Holbeanwood (Holbemesherse).³⁵ Cottenenden and Maplesden seem to have been included in the Robertsbridge lands.³⁶

The church of *ST. MARY* consists of a *CHURCH* chancel, north chapel, south chapel, clerestoried nave, north aisle, south aisle, north porch, and west tower, with shingled cap of local type.

The church is built of Hastings sandstone and the roofs of the chancel, chapels, and nave are covered with slates and those of the aisles with lead. The fabric is mainly of 14th-century date, but the west walls of the aisles are 13th-century. The chancel has diagonal buttresses at the east end and the chapels angle-buttresses at the east, all with set-offs, and the lateral buttresses

¹ Close R. 33 Hen. VI, m. 25.

² *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxiii, no. 3160.

³ Chan. Inq. p.m. 3 Edw. IV, no. 21; Docts. in Hove Pub. Library.

⁴ Hodson, op. cit. 131 ff.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xx, 338.

⁷ Ibid. xv, no. 697.

⁸ Ibid. no. 700.

⁹ Ibid. no. 703.

¹⁰ Exch. Dep. East. 9 Will. III, no. 30.

¹¹ Mon. inscript. (Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 592).

¹² *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xx, 338-9.

¹³ Deed Enr. Trin. 29 Geo. III, m. 81.

¹⁴ Mon. inscript. (Hodson, op. cit. 66 f.)

¹⁵ Hodson, loc. cit.

¹⁶ Wigleze (xi cent.); Wylegh (xiii-

xiv cent.); Willegh, Welegh (xiv cent.);

Wyleigh (xv cent.); Wylve (xvii cent.);

Whylygh (xviii cent.).

¹⁷ Add. Chart. 41853.

¹⁸ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 590, quoting the Burrell MSS.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ She and Robert made a conveyance of half the manor in 1531-2 (*Suss. Rec. Soc.* xx, 487) with warranty against the monastery of St. Peter, Westminster.

²¹ Horsfield, loc. cit.

²² See also *Suss. Arch. Coll.* li, 65-98.

²³ For pedigree see Burke, *Landed Gentry*.

²⁴ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), i, 346.

²⁵ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (2), g, 619 (3).

²⁶ Harl. Chart. 76 A 5. Now Collington Wood.

²⁷ Ibid. 80 A 6. Now Broomden.

²⁸ Ibid. 75 G 1. Cf. *Inq. Non.* (Rec. Com.), 372.

²⁹ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), i, 87.

³⁰ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xii (2), g, 1150 (31).

³¹ Ibid. xvii, 285 (11); xviii (1), 66 (37).

³² Harl. Chart. 75 G 24, 25; 77 D 19; 77 E 33; 77 H 33, 34, 36.

³³ *Cal. Pat.* 1358-61, 298.

³⁴ *Cal. Robertsbridge Chart. passim*.

³⁵ *Cur. Reg. R.* v, 289; *Abbrev. Plac.* (Rec. Com.), 57; *Campb. Chart.* xxvii, 15;

Coll. Topog. et Gen. iv, ch. xv, 139 ff.

³⁶ *Cal. Robertsbridge Chart.* no. 47.

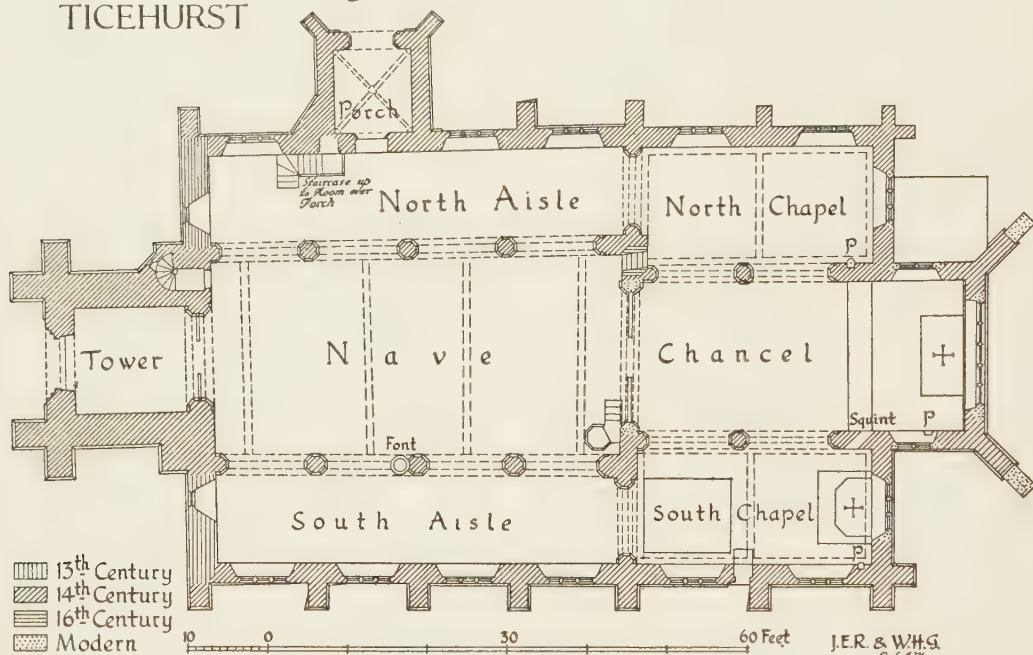
A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

are similar. The east window of the chancel is of five lights with modern tracery, and the east windows of the chapels are of three lights with renewed tracery of the late 14th century. The north and south windows of the chancel are of two lights under a square label with renewed tracery. The side windows of chapels and aisles are of three lights with segmental heads. The tracery has been much renewed, but the four windows in the south aisle have old tracery with some renewed mullions. The chancel has north and south arcades of two bays with octagonal columns with moulded caps and arches of two orders. The chancel arch is modern, but the remains of the rood-stairs may be seen on the

the south aisle parapet being modern. There are three plain shields on the porch parapet. The nave has a king-post roof with modern boarding and the aisles modern lean-to roofs. The tower has angle-buttresses, a north-east stair turret, and an embattled parapet. The west doorway is of three orders with a hood-mould, having a king's and a bishop's head as stops. There is a four-light west window with 14th-century tracery and the belfry lights are single with trefoil heads.

The font has a plain octagonal bowl, shaft, and base; there is a fixed octagonal cover, four sides of which are hinged; it is of early-16th-century date and is panelled with flamboyant tracery within and without, and round

PARISH CHURCH of ST. MARY TICEHURST



north. There is a plain 14th-century doorway in the south wall of the south chapel, and a squint from the chapel to the sanctuary. There are piscinas in the chancel and both chapels, all with trefoiled heads and the two latter with renewed bowls; that in the north has grooves for a shelf. The chancel has a modern hammer-beam roof of poor design, and the chapel roofs are of the king-post variety and plastered below the rafters. The clerestory lights have modern flamboyant tracery. The nave arcades are of four bays with octagonal columns and moulded caps and arches of two orders. The aisles have single-light trefoil-headed windows at the west. The porch has a quadripartite vault with central boss consisting of a shield charged with the arms of Echingham; the springers are demi-angels with shields and the work belongs to the end of the 14th century. Over the outer doorway of the porch is a canopied niche. There is a chamber over the porch, approached by a newel staircase from the aisle, which starts at some distance above the floor. The door at the top of the stair is contemporary and formed of three massive slabs of oak. The chamber has a window of two cinquefoiled lights under a square label, and a low-pitched beam roof. The aisles and porch are embattled,

the base is an inscription, almost indecipherable. There is a 17th-century communion table in the north chapel. The north window of the chancel contains ancient painted glass, mainly of the 15th century, with the Blessed Virgin and Holy Child, St. Christopher, part of a Doom, (?) St. Mary Salome, and a shield sable¹ fretty argent. In the north-west window of the north aisle are other fragments, including a Coronation of the Blessed Virgin in the tracery.

In the chancel floor, near the altar rails, is the brass of John Wybarne, 1490, and his two wives. He is depicted in armour of nearly a century earlier and it is probable that his executors appropriated some other knight's memorial.

The tower contains six bells, all by Thomas Janaway, 1771;² they were rehung on an iron frame in 1901.

The plate consists of a silver communion cup with hall marks for 1567-8; a paten of 1713, on three feet, given by Mrs. Mary May and bearing the arms of May; a very large silver flagon of 1684, given by Sir George Courthope, and a silver alms dish of 1733, given by Mary Courthope—both the last bearing inscriptions and the arms of Courthope.³

The registers begin in 1559.

¹ Probably originally azure, for Echingham.

² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 226. Each bell bears a rhyming couplet, and the sixth also

commemorates the vicar, churchwardens, and subscribers.

³ *Ibid.* lv, 214-15.

The 1086 church of 'Haslesse' was presumably that of Ticehurst, granted about 1197 by Walter de Scotney to the priory of Holy Trinity, HAST-ADVOWSON ings, Adam the priest of Ticehurst being mentioned 1180.¹ Walter's son Peter confirmed on condition that the priests were chosen jointly by the lord of Crowhurst and the chapter of Holy Trinity; and Henry Count of Eu and, in 1237, the Bishop of Chichester confirmed.² New Priory, Hastings, held the church until the Dissolution,³ after which the rectory was granted to the Attorney-General, John Baker.⁴ He surrendered it, with the advowson of the vicarage, in 1541, in exchange for other lands;⁵ and the property was then granted to the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury,⁶ ever since patrons,⁷ except for an interlude during the Commonwealth.⁸

Between 1180 and 1204 Bishop Seffrid II of Chichester confirmed the appropriation to the priory,⁹ and the rectorial tithes have ever since descended with the advowson.¹⁰ The vicar is mentioned in 1291,¹¹ and the living is now a vicarage.

In 1307 Edmund de Passeley received licence to grant 120 acres of land in this parish, Wadhurst, and Lamberhurst to a chaplain to celebrate divine service daily in Pashley chapel for his soul and others.¹² These lands were granted to William Tipper, Robert Dawe, and others in 1592.¹³

The church of St. Peter at Stonegate was built in 1904 to replace a smaller church of St. Peter, consecrated 1838.¹⁴ The living is in the gift of Sir George Courthope.

The church of St. Augustine at Flimwell, built in 1839 and restored at the cost of Viscount Goschen in 1916, is a vicarage in the gift of the Bishop of Chichester.

Immediately after the Declaration of Indulgence of 1688, meeting-houses for Anabaptists were certified.¹⁵ There are now Methodist and Calvinist chapels.

Randolphe's Charity. By an indenture, dated 20 March 1582, the Fishmongers' Company covenanted with Barnard Randolphe to pay a yearly sum of £4 to the churchwardens of Ticehurst, half of which was to be used in repairing the roads leading from the church to Wetherington Bridge, to Hook Bridge, to Flymwell, and to Wadhurst, and any balance, together with the remaining half, was to be applied for the benefit of the poor. The sum of £4 is still paid by the Company.

Barnard Randolphe, by his will dated 19 November 1582, gave half of his estate, together with a sum of £1,000, upon trust to apply one-half of the profits for

the benefit of poor householders. In 1584, after a suit in Chancery, a rent-charge of £25 on lands in Woodmansterne (Surrey) was assigned for the purposes of the charity. The rent-charge has been redeemed and the endowment now produces about £30 per annum, which is distributed by the rector and two trustees appointed by the parish council.

William Carr, Viscount Beresford, by a codicil to his will dated 25 April 1851, gave certain stock to the vicar and churchwardens for the poor of the parish. These dividends, amounting to about £2 10s., are similarly distributed.

Church Field was in the possession of the churchwardens in 1750, and the rent received has always been applied by them for the expenses of the church. The endowment consists of the Church or Park Field near Ridgeway containing 4 a. 3 r. 25 p.

The War Memorial Maintenance Fund was founded by declaration of trust dated 22 November 1923, under which Alexander Charles Startin and George Gillham gave £100 2½ per cent. Consols, the interest to be applied for the maintenance of the memorial erected in the parish in connexion with the Great War.

Beatrice Foster Drewe, by an indenture dated 21 March 1932, conveyed a piece of land containing approximately 4 a. 23 p. and forming part of Singlehurst Farm, Ticehurst, with the buildings thereon, known as the Ticehurst Institute, upon trust as a place of recreation for the inhabitants. The institute is managed by a board consisting of 4 foundation governors who hold office for life and 4 co-opted governors. The donor at the same time endowed the charity with stock producing approximately £100 per annum.

The George Campion Courthope Charity for the repair of the church of Stonegate St. Peter was founded by an indenture dated 19 June 1838. The endowment produces about £17 per annum.

Henry Kettel's Charity for the church of Stonegate St. Peter was founded by will proved in London on 18 December 1885. The endowment produces about £16 per annum.

The two charities are regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners, dated 8 April 1930, which appoints the vicar of Stonegate St. Peter and 3 persons to be appointed by the parochial church council to be trustees.

Henry Kettel also gave by his will a sum now producing in dividends £9 per annum to the poor. The charity is regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 8 April 1930 which appoints the vicar and churchwardens of Stonegate St. Peter to be trustees.

¹ Hodson, *op. cit.* 42.

² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiii, 158, 170-1.

³ *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), i, 354-5.

⁴ *L. and P. Hen. VIII.* xiii (2), g. 646 (34).

⁵ *Ibid.* xvi, g. 1056 (52).

⁶ *Ibid.* (59).

⁷ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

⁸ *Close R.* 1650, pt. 61, m. 12.

⁹ Hodson, *op. cit.* 71.

¹⁰ For a dispute see *Exch. Dep. East.*

¹¹ *Will.* III, no. 30; *ibid.* Mich. 9 Geo. I,

no. 15.

¹² *Tax. Pope Nich.* (Rec. Com.), 137b. Cf. *Valor Eccles.* (Rec. Com.), i, 343.

¹³ *Cal. Pat.* 1301-7, p. 537.

¹⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiii, 47.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* xxx, 60.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

THE HUNDRED OF STAPLE

CONTAINING THE PARISHES OF

BODIAM

NORTHIAM

EWHURST

SEDLSCOMBE

THE Hundred of Staple takes its name from the hamlet of Staple Cross, in the parish of Ewhurst, approximately in the centre of the hundred. At the time of the Domesday Survey the hundred included two uncertain estates: 'Bellest', which is either Belhurst in Salehurst or Belhurst in Beckley, and 'Basingeham', in or adjoining Salehurst.¹ It seems also from very early times to have included the hamlet of Chitcombe in the adjacent parish of Brede, as this formed one of the 'borghs' of the hundred in 1296 and afterwards. The hundred also included small portions of the parishes of Brede, Mountfield, and Whatlington.² The four divisions of the hundred, at first arranged in pairs, but separated in the 14th century, were Ewhurst and Sedlescombe, Chitcombe and Northiam.³ Bodiam was included in Ewhurst until the 16th century, when it appears as a separate division.⁴ The hundred belonged always to the lord of the Rape of Hastings, who had every sort of liberty and franchise within it.⁵ The Abbot of Robertsbridge had right of free warren in all his lands in the hundred.⁶

¹ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 406. Mr. S. P. Vivian informs us that 'Besingham' was part of the estate of Higham in Salehurst, near the boundary of Bodiam parish.

² Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 515.

³ *Subsidies* (Suss. Rec. Soc. x), 12, 217, 328; *Feud. Aids*, v, 133. A 'borgh' of Stretfeld occurs in 1278: Assize R. 921, m. 3 d.

⁴ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (1), 298.

⁵ *Rot. Hund.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 217; *Feud. Aids*, v, 133; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxxvii, 44; Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 33 & 34 Eliz.

⁶ *Rot. Hund.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 217.



BODIAM CASTLE, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST



BODIAM CASTLE, NORTH FRONT



BODIAM CASTLE, WEST END OF HALL

BODIAM

Bodeham (xi cent.); Bodyhamme, Bodiham (xii-xviii cent.).

The parish of Bodiam has an area of 1,604 acres of which 11 are water. It is bounded on the north and east by the Kent Ditch, and on the south by the river Rother. The elevation is low in the north and south, in the neighbourhood of the rivers, but rises in the centre, the village street sloping up to a height of 100 ft. by the vicarage, and parts of the parish in the north-west rising to 200 ft. East of the village and the castle an extended portion consists of flat lands liable to floods. The road from Sandhurst (Kent) enters the parish in the north at Bodiam Mill and runs south through Peter's Green, past the vicarage to Bodiam village. Here a branch road joins it from the west. The road leaves the parish at Bodiam Bridge on the Rother. The traditional site of the manor-house is in the northern part of the parish, to the west of Peter's Green. The road from Hastings to Cranbrook cuts through the extreme west of the parish. Bodiam railway station, on the Kent and East Sussex line, is south of the village, in Ewhurst parish. The soil is loamy, with a subsoil of clay and gravel; the chief crops are hops, and much of the land is under pasture.

Bodiam Castle represents almost *THE CASTLE*¹ the last phase of the military architecture of the Middle Ages. The licence to crenellate was granted to Sir Edward Dalingridge on 21 October 1385, expressly 'to make a castle thereof in defence of the adjacent country against the king's enemies'.² England was at this time threatened with invasion by the French, who had burnt Rye in 1377 and Winchelsea in 1380, and Bodiam commanded the navigable stream of the Rother; it is therefore probable that the work was completed as rapidly as possible. The castle was a natural development from those already built in this country, as at Maxstoke and Shirburn, and is essentially English in design. Its subsequent history was uneventful; the order for its 'siege' in 1483³ seems to have resulted in its prompt surrender, and the evidence of objects found in the moat in 1919 points to its continuous occupation until the early years of the 17th century, when the interior was probably deliberately dismantled by an owner who preferred the comfort of a modern house elsewhere,⁴ after which it was left to suffer the usual effects of exposure and neglect.

In 1864 the parapets and towers were restored, the moat was drained, and the walls, where defective, were repaired with new stonework. In 1919 the late Lord Curzon carried out another restoration. The moat was again drained, and the foundations and walls generally were cleared of ivy and repaired. At this time the foundations of the two bridges were discovered.

The castle is built on a rectangular plan, the curtain walls measuring externally 150 ft. by 135 ft. It is constructed of sandstone from the quarries of Wadhurst, and the walls are faced with ashlar both inside and outside. It stands upon a battered plinth, rising 10 ft. 6 in. from the bed of the moat and 2 ft. 6 in. above the level

of the water. The curtain walls are 41 ft. in height from the water level to the crest of the parapet and average 6 ft. in thickness. Drum towers 29 ft. in diameter and 60 ft. high project boldly from each corner of the rectangle and there is a square tower of the same height in the middle of each of the east, west, and south sides. The gatehouse with the principal gateway stands in the middle of the north side and a postern gateway passes through the square tower on the south.

The approach is defended by a barbican and an octagonal outwork, both placed in line with the main gateway and standing within the moat, which measures at its edge about 530 ft. by 340 ft. and is 8 ft. deep. The moat is fed principally by springs rising a short distance from its north-west corner. There is an overflow pond at the north-east and a sluice at the south bank of the moat itself. Opening in from the river to the south of the moat was a small harbour.

Approach to the castle was by a timber bridge connected by a drawbridge with an abutment on the west bank and running, parallel to the north wall of the castle, to the octagon outwork, thus exposing the right flank of any force advancing across it to the fire of the defenders. From the octagon another drawbridge led to the barbican, and thence a third drawbridge led to the main gateway. Later, when defence was less important than convenience of entry, the bridge was replaced by the present causeway direct from the north bank.

The octagon is revetted with masonry on all sides, but has no walls standing above the platform. The barbican was a rectangular vaulted gateway, probably two stories in height, with a portcullis on the north side. A drawing of 1784, in the Bodleian library, shows the lower story of the gateway almost complete, but now only the west side of the lower story remains, containing the west jambs of the arches at both ends, the groove for the portcullis, the springers of the vaulting, and part of a newel stairway. From the barbican extends southward a causeway to the break before the gatehouse, now spanned by a modern bridge.

The gatehouse is of three stories flanked by bold projections.⁵ The gatehouse is protected by a machicolated parapet, which is carried across the front of the gateway by a single arch. Above the gateway are three shields of arms. In the middle, a cross engrailed, for Sir Edward Dalingridge: on the left, a fess dancetty bezanty, for Wardedieu:⁶ on the right, six martlets.⁷ High above the central shield is a helmet with the Dalingridge crest—a unicorn's head.

The gateway consists of two vaulted bays and was defended by three portcullises and three pairs of folding doors, placed at either end and at the arch between the bays. The outer portcullis, which is of oak, plated and shod with iron, is medieval: the others and all the original doors have disappeared. Both bays of the gateway had quadripartite stone vaults with intermediate ribs. The vaulting of the first bay has been destroyed, but that of the second bay is intact. The bosses, one at the centre and four at the junctions of the intermediate

¹ For descriptions of the castle, see Curzon, *Bodiam Castle*; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xlvi, 114-33; lxxii, 84-99.

² *Cal. Pat.* 1385-9, p. 42.

³ See below, p. 263.

⁴ Cf. Herstmonceux Castle, above, p. 131.

⁵ The drawbridge was probably drawn back on to the platform in front of the gate,

as there is no trace of arrangements for lifting it.

⁶ See *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxxvi, 84-6.

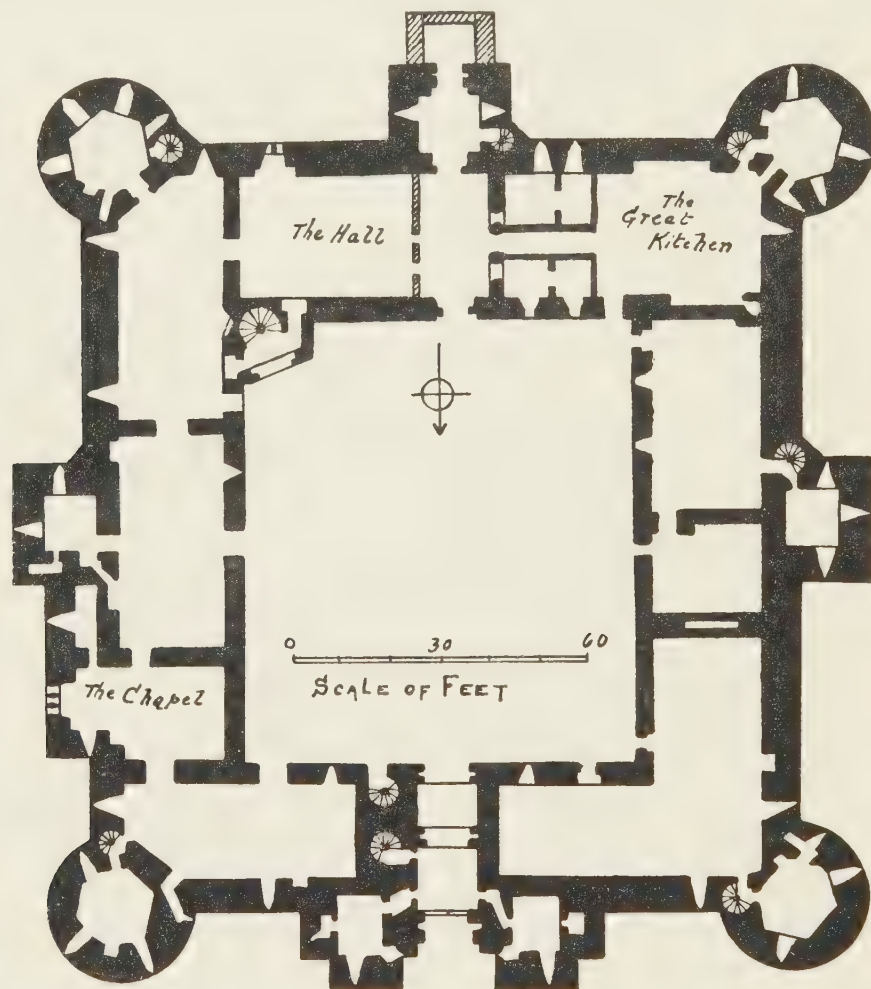
⁷ Probably for Radynden; *ibid.* lxii, 78.

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ribs, are pierced with round holes of about 6 in. diameter: while those at the apices of the wall-ribs are pierced with semicircular holes.¹ A doorway on each side of the outer bay leads to a guard-room which commands the entrance by loop-holes with oillets and has a garde-robe opening off from it. A third doorway, on the east side, opens to a newel stairway. The two upper stories have each a middle and two side rooms. In the room over the first bay of the gateway the outer and middle portcullises passed up at the end walls behind a wall-

room east of the gatehouse, where a part of one jamb remains.

Within the castle the domestic buildings are disposed round the walls on all sides, between the curtain and a rectangular courtyard 85 ft. long by 77 ft. wide. On the south, directly opposite the gateway, is the doorway to the great hall, with the buttery, pantry, and kitchen extending westward from it. Ranged along the east side of the courtyard are the lesser halls, the chapel, and the chief living rooms; and along the west side the



PLAN OF BODIAM CASTLE

arch. This room is approached from the stairway through a passage having a groined vault with a foliated boss.

Between the two bays of the gateway there is a straight joint in the masonry and the upper stages of the gatehouse are not carried south of this line. It would appear that the gateway, as originally designed, was to be of one bay only, but that the plan was altered during the course of building. Originally there was one story above this second bay, but only a fragment of the south wall with one jamb of a window remains; and on the south face of the gatehouse, immediately above the first-floor window, may be seen the groove for the lead flashing of the roof over the chamber. A newel stairway, on the east side, was entered from the long

domestic offices. The north range was probably occupied by the garrison. Only fragments of these buildings now remain. Most of the walls facing the courtyard have been destroyed; many of the cross-walls have also disappeared, as have all the original roofs and floors. The chapel, the great hall, and the kitchen were all of the full height of the curtain walls, while the other buildings were of two stories, the east and north-east ranges having basements also. The lighting for the most part must have come from the courtyard: for the curtain walls are pierced with few windows and those generally small, only four being of more than one light. There are no loop-holes for shooting from except at the gateway.

The postern gateway on the south led from a doorway at the west end of the great hall to a timber bridge

¹ The remaining bosses of the outer bay are similarly pierced. The purpose of these holes is not obvious. The faces of the

bosses are about 2 ft. 6 in. below the floor line of the upper rooms and these small

apertures could have had little or no value as machicolations.

which went straight across the moat, with drawbridges at each end.¹ It is of one bay and is vaulted like the main gateway, and has similar holes through the bosses. The gateway has a small window on either side and was closed on the south by a pair of doors and a portcullis. It has a doorway and newel stairway on the west. The chamber in each of the two upper stages has a fire-place and a garderobe. In front of the gateway, towards the moat, there is a narrow platform, 10 ft. long, flanked by broken walls, now 11 ft. high. The gateway is in a square-headed recess 8 in. deep and 8 ft. 7 in. high. This arrangement suggests that the drawbridge was drawn back on the platform and raised against the gateway. On the south face of the postern tower, above the first-floor window, are three shields, the middle one only being charged with arms: on a chevron three roses, for Sir Robert Knollys, under whom Sir Edward Dalyngridge served in France. Above the shield is a helmet with his crest, a ram's head. This tower also is protected by a machicolated parapet.

The great hall is 24 ft. wide and measured 46 ft. in length from the west to a cross-wall, now destroyed, at the east. This was the dais end of the hall and here the curtain is pierced by a tall transomed window of two pointed lights with segmental rear-arch and a stone seat. Like other partition walls of the castle, the east wall of the hall was built against the curtain without toothing and is now only to be detected by its foundations. Of the north wall a fragment at the east is apparently part of a newel stairway to the upper stages of the east range. The doorway at the west, which has a two-centred head of two moulded orders, is intact, and a few feet east of it is one jamb of a window, but the wall beyond this point has been destroyed. The west wall remains to the height of 12 ft. 6 in. above the ground, and is pierced by three pointed doorways. The central doorway, which is slightly higher than the others, opened to a passage leading to the kitchen: those on either side opened into the buttery and the pantry. The arches and jambs of all three are moulded with a wide chamfer cut in the centre with a deep hollow.²

Along the east wall of the curtain were two long rooms, each having cellars below and a similar long room above. The first of these rooms, presumably the great chamber, was probably entered from the hall. At the north-east corner is a two-light window with a stone seat and there are two single-light windows in the east and south walls, on either side of a doorway to the drum tower. Both the north and west walls are destroyed above the level of the cellars. These are approached by a doorway from the courtyard and by a flight of steps, which apparently led down from the newel stairway at the north-east of the hall. They are connected by doorways in the cross-walls with the whole suite of cellars from the drum tower to the east tower. The basement of the drum tower is hexagonal and the wall-ribs, corbels, and springers of its stone vault still remain. Three narrow loops light the compartment. The first floor of the tower, opening from the great chamber, has a fire-place and a garderobe and from it a newel stairway leads to the upper floors and the roof. Each of the upper chambers also has a fire-place and a garderobe and small windows over the moat. The room over the great chamber resembles it except that there are two single-light windows in the east wall.

The second long room, popularly known as 'the

Lady's Bower', runs across the inner face of the east tower, and, like that above it, was lighted from the courtyard. In the east wall are two fire-places and a doorway to the tower. A doorway in the north wall leads to the chapel. The chamber in the tower was warmed by means of a small arched opening pierced through to the back of the northern fire-place in the large room; it has two small windows and a garderobe: two lockers, side by side, are formed in the south wall. There is no stairway between this and the upper stages of the tower. The room above the bower retains in the north wall part of a two-light window, which looked into the chapel, and at the north end of the east wall is a doorway to a small oratory. In the east wall are two fire-places, one having an arch with joggled voussoirs and a slightly projecting hood, and a doorway to the tower. The oratory has a single-light window overlooking the moat and a window of two trefoiled lights in a square head looking into the chapel. From the chamber in the tower a newel stairway rises to a third chamber and the roof: each of these chambers has a fire-place and a garderobe.

The chapel, with a small sacristy south of it, projects about 9 ft. eastward beyond the curtain wall. It is 19 ft. wide by 29 ft. long, the eastern 11 ft. forming the sanctuary. The floor of the nave stood about 2 ft. 6 in. above that of the courtyard and below it was a low crypt. The floor of the sanctuary is solid. It stood about a foot above that of the nave and was originally covered with small glazed tiles. In the east wall is a large pointed window of three plain pointed lights: one lost mullion was replaced in 1864. There is a small single-light window in the north wall, and on the south is a piscina with a pointed head of two moulded orders and a mutilated rectangular bowl. Over the pointed doorway to the sacristy is the window from the oratory. The sacristy is a small closet having a single-light window with a stone seat in the east wall and a locker in the west wall; there was a timber floor between it and the oratory.

On the north side of the courtyard, east of the gatehouse, is a tier of long rooms consisting of two stories and basement. The inner wall has been destroyed. In the curtain walls there are windows, a fire-place, and a garderobe in each story above the basement, and a doorway from the tower at each stage. The chambers in the tower are similar to those of the south-east tower, but there was no vault over the basement.

The domestic offices west of the great hall are less ruinous than the other buildings round the courtyard, the greater portion of the inner wall standing to its full height. The buttery and pantry are lighted from the courtyard by two square-headed windows, each of two trefoiled lights, and from the other side by two single-light windows. There was a cellar³ below these offices and a room above. The upper room, probably reached by a wooden stair, had a single-light window towards the moat and towards the courtyard one single-light window and a tall transomed window of two trefoiled lights in a square head.

The kitchen, in the south-west corner, is entered from the courtyard by a four-centred doorway, above which is another tall transomed window. There is also a small window on the west side of the kitchen and another, high in the wall, on the south side. At the south-west corner one doorway leads to the newel stair-

¹ The foundations here were of stone; those of the main bridge were of oak.

² There is no evidence of the existence of a screens partition.

³ The cellar was excavated in 1919 and partially filled in again.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

way of the drum tower. Another to a flight of steps down to the basement of the tower, where is the well, in the centre of the floor: it is 8 ft. in diameter and 10 ft. deep and is lined with ashlar. In each of the north and south walls of the kitchen there is a wide fire-place; one of the corbels which supported the hood, that on the left, remains in each case, and attached to it is a stone bracket, such as is often found in medieval fire-places, probably for the support of a light. These and other fire-places are backed with tiles, bedded flat. Beside the north fire-place is an oven. The tower was restored in 1864. It is hexagonal internally. There are three stages above the well chamber, two of which have small windows, a fire-place, and a garderobe. The third stage is a columbarium, honeycombed on four of its sides with pigeon-holes.

The first room of the west range north of the kitchen was probably the servants' hall: it retains its doorway from the courtyard. The central portion of the inner wall has been destroyed but at either end is one jamb and, on the north, some of the tracery of a window of two trefoiled lights in a square head; these windows had stone seats. The room apparently obtained heat only from the backs of the great fire-places at either end, two apertures through the north wall to the fire-place being probably made to warm this room. Near the north end is a door and newel stairway to the chambers in the west tower. There is also a doorway to the adjoining room on the north. The upper floor was evidently approached by a wooden stairway. The room over the common hall was lighted from the courtyard by tall transomed windows of which traces remain. There is a small window in the curtain wall and a doorway on the north. The west tower consists of a basement and three stages of square chambers: each of the two upper stages is provided with a fire-place and garderobe. The basement must have been entered by a trap-door in the floor of the chamber above it, for there is no doorway.

The room north of the common hall was a secondary kitchen with a wide fire-place both on the north and south. The south half of a doorway from the courtyard remains, and a window on that side, of one trefoiled light, is intact. In the room above is one jamb of a tall transomed window.

From the second kitchen to the north wall was another long apartment. On the ground floor are two small lights through the curtain, one on either side of the north-west tower, and in the west wall a recess containing two garderobes. The lower jambs of a doorway from the courtyard still exists. The upper room has three windows in the curtain and there was a fire-place in the north wall: a garderobe opens out from the jamb of the north-west window. A doorway and newel stairs in the lower room give access to the drum tower, which has a circular basement and three hexagonal stages above. Here also the basement must have been approached through a trap-door.

The building along the north wall of the curtain, west of the gatehouse, was entered from the courtyard. The ground floor was probably the stables: it was lighted only from the inner wall. The upper room was

also lighted from the courtyard, and has a fire-place. There is no opening to the gatehouse in either story.

The roofs of the castle must have been flat or low-pitched and covered with lead: the chases for the lead flashing occur all round the walls. The chimneys are octagonal and have moulded caps. The towers stand astride the walk, and in only one case, the north-west tower, is there any passage through them. The portion of the walk between the gatehouse and the north-west tower is accessible from doorways at either end, and that between the north-east and the east tower is accessible from both towers: but elsewhere the doorways give access only to one section between two adjoining towers. The section between the west and the south-west towers has no entry from either end. The flat roofs of the internal buildings, however, being of the same height as the walk, would afford communication between the sections. The roofs of the towers were probably flat: they were protected by parapets, machicolated only over the two gateways. Octagonal turrets from the newel stairways, also with embattled parapets, rise 11 ft. above the towers.

The manor of *BODIAM* in the 11th *MANOR* century formed part of that of Ewhurst, and the whole estate was held by Ælfer, of King Edward the Confessor. After the Conquest the hide and 3 virgates comprising Bodiam were held of the Count of Eu by Osbern; Roger held half a hide of him and Ralph 2 virgates.¹ The overlordship follows the descent of the rape.

This Osbern Fitz Hugh gave to Battle Abbey 30 Norman acres, or arpens, of his well-watered meadows by the Rother;² which gift was confirmed in 1109 by his son Osbern.³ Roger de Bodiam held four knight's fees in the rape in 1166,⁴ and was succeeded by William, a Crusader, whose son Henry died in his father's lifetime,⁵ leaving a son William, who had succeeded by about 1210, at which time his sister Isabel married William de Siwell.⁶ He was perhaps succeeded by yet another William, who was living in 1261,⁷ for about 1275 Henry Lord of Bodiam granted lands to the abbey of Robertsbridge for the soul of his brother William de Bodiam.⁸ Henry died in, or shortly before, 1287,⁹ when the male line of this family evidently became extinct, for in that year the manor was conveyed by Henry de Siwell, doubtless a descen-



BODIAM. *Argent a bend indented azure surmounted by a baston or in a border gules.*



WARDIEDIEU. *Argent a fesse dancetty sable bezanty.*

dant of William and Isabel, to Sir Henry Wardedieu.¹⁰ He settled the manor on his son, Master Nicholas, who

¹ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 406b.

² Lower, *Chron. of Battle Abbey*, 38; Hales MS. (Lincoln's Inn), 87, fol. 8.

³ *Ibid.* fol. 55v. Emma wife of Osbern de Bodiam, in the time of Count Robert a. 1190, gave land in the manor of Bodiam and a mill in Normandy: Lower,

op. cit. 60.

⁴ *Red Bk. Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), i, 202.

⁵ *Rot. Cur. Reg.* i, 365.

⁶ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), 67.

⁷ *Ibid.* 109.

⁸ *Ibid.* 120.

⁹ Add. MS. 39373, fol. 97; Isabel his widow recovered dower.

¹⁰ Feet of F. Suss. East. 15 Edw. I, 32 (25); Henry Wardedieu was lord of the manor of Sywell (Northants.) in 1286 (*V.C.H. Northants.* iv, 133), and had probably married a Siwell heiress.

was holding it, together with Richard his brother, in 1320.¹ Nicholas was still living in 1327,² but before 1330 Bodiam had passed to John son of William Wardedieu, then a minor,³ who entered into possession by 1339,⁴ and was still lord of the manor in 1343,⁵ which he retained when settling property in Northants. on his son John at his marriage in 1347.⁶ On the death of the younger John, Bodiam passed, by the marriage of his daughter Elizabeth, to Sir Edward Dalingridge,⁷ who was in possession in 1378. This Sir Edward had a distinguished career, being a member of ten Parliaments, and in 1392–3 Keeper of the Tower of London and Governor of the City. In 1383 he obtained a grant of a market every Saturday at his manor of Bodiam, and a fair there yearly on the vigil and day of St. Augustine, 25 and 26 May.⁸ In October 1385 he obtained a licence to crenellate his manor 'by the sea' (the Rother being then navigable up to the bridge of Bodiam and considered as part of the port of Winchelsea), and 'to make a castle thereof in defence of the adjacent county against the King's enemies'.⁹ He died about 1395 and was succeeded by his son Sir John, who was under a cloud owing to his father's adherence to the party of Thomas Duke of Gloucester in the troubles of 1386. He seems to have mortgaged his estates and sold his stock and goods in 1396, but was pardoned and restored in 1398.¹⁰ He died without issue about 1408, and his widow Alice continued to hold Bodiam for many years.¹¹



DALINGRIDGE. *Argent a cross engrailed gules.*



LEWKNOR. *Azure three cheverons argent.*

She married secondly Sir Thomas Boteler, and died in 1443, when the castle and manor passed to Richard Dalingridge, son of Sir John's brother Walter.¹² Upon his death without issue in 1470 Bodiam was inherited by Sir Roger Lewknor, the son of his sister Philippe and her second husband Sir Thomas Lewknor.¹³ His claim, however, was disputed by John Wode, who had bought the reversion of the estate from Richard son of Edmund Mille. Edmund had bought it from Henry Harmer (son of William, son of John, son of Alice, daughter of

Henry Wardedieu, brother of that John whose daughter Elizabeth had married Sir Edward Dalingridge.¹⁴ John Wode proved his claim but released it to Sir Roger in 1473.¹⁵

Sir Thomas Lewknor, Roger's son and successor, was a Lancastrian, and in 1483 was in rebellion against Richard III. The authorities of the district were commissioned to summon the men of Kent and Sussex and besiege the castle of Bodiam, and Thomas's estates were forfeited, Bodiam being placed in the custody of Nicholas Rigby in 1484.¹⁶ At the accession of Henry VIII, however, the Lewknors were restored, and Bodiam passed to Thomas's son Sir Roger,¹⁷ who died in 1543, leaving a number of daughters. Bodiam had been settled in 1532 on his eldest daughter Joan Poole on her second marriage, with Sir William Barentyne, but as there was no issue of this marriage the remainder, after some disputes, was secured to the heirs of Sir Roger Lewknor by his second wife Elizabeth. Bodiam therefore passed to three infant daughters of the latter, Katherine, Mabel, and Constance, whose wardship was granted in 1546 to Sir Henry Knyvet, husband of Joan Poole's daughter Anne.¹⁸ Katherine married first John Mills and secondly William Morgan, and had one daughter Elizabeth, who became the wife of Henry Bosville. Mabel married Anthony Stapeley and died young, her third of the estate after the death of her husband, sometime between 1583 and 1588, reverting to the other two sisters. The third sister Constance married Edward Glemham, and was thus seised of half the manor in 1588. The other half devolved upon Henry Bosville, Katherine's son-in-law,¹⁹ and his son Sir Ralph was in possession in 1596 and died seised of it in 1636.²⁰ Sir Leonard Bosville, son of Ralph, was holding this moiety in 1638, but its subsequent history is obscure.²¹

Constance and Edward Glemham sold their moiety in 1588 to John Levett, who settled it in 1603 on his second son Thomas and died in 1606.²² On the death of Thomas it reverted, before 1619, to his elder brother John, who sold it in 1623 to Sir Nicholas Tufton.²³ This moiety appears to have included the castle and the right to hold a fair. From Nicholas, who was created 1st Earl of Thanet, the property descended to his son John, the 2nd Earl, whose son Nicholas, as Lord Tufton, was possessed of it in 1664.²⁴ Meanwhile it had been leased or otherwise conveyed to Nathaniel Powell, who held a court baron there in 1645²⁵ and paid castle-guard rents from 1661 to 1670.²⁶ He appears subsequently to have become actual owner of at any rate half the manor, for his descendant Christopher,

¹ Add. MS. 39373, fol. 157; Feet of F. Suss. East. 4 Edw. II, 42 (1); *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 102.

² *Subsidies* (Suss. Rec. Soc. x), 217.

³ *Cal. Deeds A.* (Suss. Arch. Trust), Lewes, no. 1.

⁴ *Coll. Top. et Gen.* vii, 119.

⁵ Other parts of the estate of four fees were held by John son of Richard Wardedieu: *Cal. Inq. Edw. III*, viii, 232; *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 463; *Cal. Close*, 1346–9, p. 154.

⁶ *Cott. Chart.* xxvi, 38.

⁷ *Cal. Fine R.* viii, 399. Lord Curzon (*Bodiam Castle*, p. 24) calls her the daughter of Nicholas Wardedieu. Cf. *Suss. Arch. Coll.* ix, 283.

⁸ *Chart. R.* 5 & 6 Ric. II, m. 1, no. 5. The fair continued to be held on the equivalent date, 6 June, in the Fair Field by the church until the beginning of this

century: Curzon, *Bodiam Castle*, 26.

⁹ *Cal. Pat.* 1385–9, p. 42.

¹⁰ *Cal. Close*, 1392–6, pp. 499–500; *Cal. Pat.* 1396–9, p. 341.

¹¹ *Ibid.* 1405–8, p. 357; Add. *Chart.* 20049; *Feud. Aids*, v, 150; *Cal. Pat.* 1436–41, p. 458.

¹² *Chan. Inq. p.m.* 21 Hen. VI, no. 52.

¹³ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* ix, 287.

¹⁴ *E. Chan. Proc. bdl.* 41, nos. 35–8.

¹⁵ Add. MS. 39376, fols. 167v, 179; Add. *Chart.* 20050.

¹⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1476–85, pp. 370, 444, 535. The grant included custody of the Park, which is mentioned in 1440 (*ibid.* 1436–41, p. 458) and survives in the place-names Park Farm and South Park.

¹⁷ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* ix, 288; *Visit. Suss.* (Harl. Soc.); Feet of F. Div. Co. Mich. 30 Hen. VIII.

¹⁸ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), lxxv, 18; *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xxi (1), g. 970 (60).

¹⁹ *Recov. R.* East. 4 & 5 P. and M. ro. 402; Feet of F. Suss. East. 30 Eliz.; Add. *Chart.* 8792.

²⁰ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), cccclxxx, 139.

²¹ Curzon, *Bodiam Castle*, p. 38, states that he sold it to John Tufton in 1639, but on what grounds is not clear.

²² Feet of F. Suss. East. 30 Eliz.; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccxcii, 171.

²³ *Ings.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xxxiii), 214; *Recov. R.* Trin. 17 Jas. I, ro. 12; Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 21 Jas. I.

²⁴ Feet of F. Suss. East. 21 Chas. I; *Hil.* 15 & 16 Chas. II.

²⁵ *Ibid.* East. 21 Chas. I; Curzon, *op. cit.* 38.

²⁶ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 113.

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second son of his grandson Barnham Powell, was in possession from 1717 to 1725.¹ At this time a quarter of the manor was held by Stephen Sivier, whose daughter, married to a Mr. Davies, was still holding it in 1773; while another quarter, which had belonged to Sir Thomas Dunk, was then held by William Richards, and passed in 1741 to George Montagu, Earl of Halifax, on his marriage with Anne Dunk, whose surname he assumed.²

Christopher Powell sold his estate of Bodiam to Sir Thomas Webster, who held courts there from 1725 until his death in 1751, when the manor passed successively to his sons Sir Whistler, who died in 1779, and Sir Godfrey, who died in the following year.³ Sir Godfrey, son of the last named, succeeded, and apparently acquired the whole estate, with free fishery, free warren, and courts leet and baron.⁴ He lived until 1800, and his son, a third Godfrey, sold Bodiam in 1829 to John Fuller, who was succeeded in 1834 by his cousin Augustus Eliot Fuller. The latter's son Owen John Augustus Fuller-Meyrick sold it in 1864 to George Cubitt, who in 1892 was created Baron Ashcombe of Bodiam Castle. From his son Henry, the second Lord Ashcombe, Bodiam was purchased in 1917 by Lord Curzon of Kedleston.⁵ The bulk of the property was sold again to various owners, but the castle and land surrounding, including the manor-house, were bequeathed by Lord Curzon to the National Trust, and passed to them upon his death in 1925. No court baron has been held since 1864.



WEBSTER. *Azure a bend argent cotised or between two demi-lions ermine with a rose gules between two boars' heads sable on the bend.*

The church of *ST. GILES* consists of a *CHURCH* chancel, modern north vestry and organ-chamber, nave, north and south aisles, north porch, and west tower. The material is Hastings sandstone. The fabric dates mainly from the late 14th century, but was excessively restored in 1851. The roofs are tiled. The nave and aisles and also the chancel and vestry are roofed continuously.

The chancel is built of large blocks of stone and the masonry resembles that found in the castle. The east end has diagonal buttresses with two offsets. The east window of three modern lancets replaces a three-light 15th-century window. In the south wall are three lancets which appear to be of 13th-century date, but if so they must have been re-used; the westernmost is on a slant and is prolonged to serve as a low-side window. Between the central and westernmost of these lancets is a blocked doorway with elliptical arch and a continuous chamfer. In the north wall is a plain lancet now blocked by the vestry. The sedilia consist of two stepped seats with pointed arches having a double hollow chamfer and a hood moulding of ogee section terminating in a twist. There is a piscina with a pointed chamfered arch and a quatrefoiled bowl. The chancel arch is of two orders with plain chamfer and moulded caps and

bases. The roof, like those in the rest of the church, is modern.

The nave arcades are of two bays with octagonal columns and caps with scroll-moulding; the bases are stilted and the arches are of two orders with plain chamfers. The north and south walls of the aisles have been entirely rebuilt and their windows are also modern. The west walls of both aisles are partly of the 14th century; they have each a single trefoiled light, that in the south aisle being original. The east window of the north aisle is original, of two trefoiled lights with a cinquefoil above, now masked by the organ-chamber. The corresponding window in the south aisle is similar but largely renewed. Inside the north door is a stoup recess, reset.

The tower, which has its length at right angles to the nave, has heavy angle buttresses with three set-offs; the upper part seems to be somewhat later than the rest, but excessive restoration has made it difficult to analyse. A former west doorway has been destroyed and all the fenestration renewed and mostly not in accordance with the original design, judging from old prints. The present west window is of three lights with decorated tracery. The west belfry window is of two lights with tracery of 14th-century style; that on the south is a two-light under a square label, while on the east are two small single trefoiled lights. The tower has an embattled parapet and a stair turret at the north-west corner rising above the tower. There was formerly a conical finial to the turret. The tower arch is acutely pointed and has similar mouldings to those of the nave arcades.

The font and all the other fittings are modern. On the west wall of the tower is the mutilated brass of a knight in late-14th-century armour, with the arms of Wardedieu⁶ on his surcoat. The head and legs are missing. There is also a detached brass shield with the same arms. On the same wall is a shroud brass, and an inscription commemorating William Wetherden, vicar, 1513; also an inscription to Thomas Grove and Christian his wife.

The tower contains five bells, four of which are by Lester and Pack, 1761, and the other by Mears, 1854.⁷

The plate consists of a communion cup and paten with foot, of silver, 1724; a flagon of silver, 1848; and an alms dish of silver, 1761.⁸

The registers begin in 1557.

The advowson of the 'chapel of *ADVOWSON* Bodiam' with its tithes formed part of the endowment of the prebend of Ralph Tayard, attached to the chapel of St. Mary in Hastings Castle. This prebend was known in the 14th century as the prebend of Bodiam, Hollington, and Ewhurst, but later as the prebend of Hollington only.⁹ After the Dissolution the advowson of the vicarage of Bodiam was granted in 1547 to Sir Anthony Browne,¹⁰ whose descendants became Viscounts Montagu, and it remained in that family until late in the 17th century, although in 1623 presentation was made by Thankful Frewen and John Everenden.¹¹ In 1713 Richard Styles presented, but shortly afterwards the advowson was acquired by Sir Thomas Webster, lord of the

¹ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 113; Recov. R. Trin. 6 Geo. I, ro. 81; G.E.C. *Baronetage*, iii, 194.

² Collins, *Peerage*, v, 9. Add. MS. 5679, fol. 117. William Richards, illegitimate son of Sir Thomas, seems to have assumed the name of Dunk on inheriting his father's property, hence his daughter's

name was Anne Dunk: G.E.C. *Complete Peerage* (2nd ed.), vi, 447-8.

³ G.E.C. *Baronetage*, iv; Curzon, op. cit. 39.

⁴ Recov. R. Trin. 26 Geo. III, ro. 47; *ibid.* Hil. 51 Geo. III, ro. 270.

⁵ Curzon, op. cit. 40.

⁶ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxxvi, 84.

⁷ *Ibid.* xvi, 200.

⁸ *Ibid.* lv, 208. For a general account of the church see *ibid.* lxxii, 74-83.

⁹ *Ibid.* xiii, 137, 141, 143; *Cal. Pat.* 1327-30, pp. 313 and 526; *ibid.* 1374-7, p. 170.

¹⁰ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xxi (2), g. 771 (3). ¹¹ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

manor, and descended in his family, together with the rectorial tithes, until the beginning of the 19th century.¹ When the manor was sold in 1829 the advowson was apparently acquired by the Rev. Sir John Godfrey Thomas, bart., who was vicar of Wartling and Bodiam and patron in 1835.² He died in 1841, and in 1849 the advowson was purchased by Thomas Cubitt, whose son George Cubitt, later Lord Ashcombe, acquired the manor in 1864. It passed with the castle to Lord Curzon in 1917, but it was acquired soon after by All Souls College, Oxford, the present patrons.

Parish Cottage and Almshouses. By *CHARITIES* an indenture dated 19 February 1887 Mary Parker conveyed a cottage and 1 acre of land called Knowle Hill at Bodiam, a piece of land and three cottages situated on the road from Bodiam to Hurst Green and containing 20 perches, and

a sum of £3,000 Queensland 4 per cent. Inscribed Stock upon trust to be administered by the vicar and churchwardens. The first-named property was to be used for any charitable purpose in Bodiam. The second-named property was to be used as a residence for three almspeople being single women or widows of Bodiam. The above-mentioned sum of stock has been converted and produces about £150 per annum. After meeting costs for repairs and other outgoings such as subscriptions to the Nursing Association, the Cottage Hospital, and the Coal Club of Bodiam, £54 12s. is distributed among the almspeople in weekly payments.

Lord Ashcombe, by an indenture dated 5 January 1918, conveyed a piece of land in Bodiam with the building now known as the Bier Houses upon trust to be used for such parochial and charitable purposes as the rector and churchwardens might determine.

EWHURST

Werste (xi cent.); Ywerste, Ywherst (xiii cent.); Iwherst, Ywehurst, Uherst (xiv cent.).

The parish of Ewhurst has an area of 5846 acres. The River Rother forms the northern boundary of the

parish, and beside it are flat lands liable to floods. A stream running into the Rother forms part of the eastern boundary; there is another stream on the south, and that of Andrew's Gill bounds it on the south-west. From the low-lying lands in the north the elevation rises gradually, the highest point being 333 ft. at Staple Cross, and sinks again in the south to a level of 100 ft. The road from Bodiam runs south through the parish with rather a winding course. Two branches running east from it

join just west of Snagshall and continue to Ewhurst village, in the western part of which the church is situated. From the centre of the village a road turns south, and winds past Knowle Corner Wood and Lordine Court Farm, an 18th-century house, of which the ashlar masonry in the lower part of the walling may be medieval. The road from Bodiam continues southward through Staple Cross, where there is a column erected to the memory of men of the parish who fell in the Great War, to Cripp's Corner on the southern boundary of the parish. From Staple Cross a road runs east past St. Mark's mission church to join the road from Ewhurst at Gate Farm, after which it continues towards Beckley. The main road from Cranbrook to Hastings cuts through the western part of the parish, and Udiam lies on the northern border, just to the east of this road. Bodiam station, on the Kent and East Sussex Railway, is just within the northern boundary

of the parish. A Congregational chapel was built in 1884, and there is a Methodist chapel at Staple Cross.

'The Preacher's House', now two tenements, 200 yds. west of the church, is a rectangular building of



EWHURST: 'THE PREACHER'S HOUSE'

c. 1500, with an 18th-century addition built against the whole of the north wall; and modern extensions at the ends. The central portion comprised the hall block, but appears always to have been of two stories. Opening out of the hall at the western end is the screens passage, with the kitchen wing beyond. Between hall and solar is now a large chimney-stack, inserted c. 1600, and a modern staircase. The lower half of the south front has exposed timber-framing with vertical studding; the upper is tile-hung. The original doorway to the screens, towards the western end, has been blocked up and a modern doorway inserted further west. The upper floor has an overhang, carried on curved braces which are carried down on to strip buttresses with moulded caps. The 17th-century chimney-stack has grouped shafts with a capping of projecting brick-courses.

In the original west wall, at first floor level, is a

¹ Ibid.; *Recov. R. Trin.* 26 Geo. III, ro. 47; *ibid.* Hil. 51 Geo. III, ro. 270.

² Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 520.

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blocked two-light window with a diamond-shaped mullion. The original north wall has a doorway to the screens with a four-centred hollow-chamfered opening in a square, moulded head, and continuous jambs. East of it is a four-light window of similar design. A blocked doorway leads from the staircase into the north addition. The timber-framing is for the most part exposed in the interior of the house. The main ceiling-beams have a double hollow chamfer, and the joists, set sideways, are of unusual size. The screens partition on the west is complete and has vertical studding, and two doorways with moulded, four-centred openings in square heads and foliated spandrels. The east partition has been removed, but the mortices to the vertical pieces are still visible in the ceiling-beam.

The west fire-place in the chimney-stack has a cambered, stop-chamfered lintel. The east fire-place has a four-centred opening in a square head and foliated spandrels. There is a similar fire-place to the first floor. The main vertical posts to the timber-framing have shaped heads, and, on the first floor, diagonal braces. The roof was rebuilt in the 18th century, but one original, cambered tie-beam has been re-used.

South-west of the church are several early houses. Prawle, a large building of c. 1600, has been practically remodelled in recent years but retains two good chimney-stacks, that to the north wing having a weathered base and later grouped shafts. Brasses Farm is an L-shaped building of c. 1550, altered and enlarged at later dates. The lower walls are of ashlar, the upper of plastered timber-framing, of which the close-set vertical studding and shaped wall-posts are visible in the interior. The rooms have open-timbered ceilings and one has panelling with the initials W.I. and date 1602; and the roof has original wind-braced side purlins but was mostly rebuilt c. 1600 as a queen-post roof, with a re-use of many old timbers. 'Solomon's Garden', at Staple Cross, is a thatched house of early-17th-century date with modern additions. The overhang of the east front has been underbuilt in brick; but much of the timber-framing, with diagonal braces to the posts, is visible. The roof is of queen-post construction.

The manor of *EWHRUST* was held of *MANORS* King Edward the Confessor by Ælfer, and after the Conquest it was held in demesne by the Count of Eu. Five virgates from the original 6 hides (which included Bodiam) were then withdrawn as belonging to the rape of the Count of Mortain.¹ The overlordship follows the descent of the rape.

The earliest mention of a sub-tenant is in 1211, when Ewhurst was apparently held by Stephen le Borne.² It is next mentioned in 1302, when John Wacelyn, an idiot, died seised of it, holding it of the Earl of Brittany for 1½ knight's fees. His heirs were his sisters Nicholaa, wife of Henry de Sardene or Sherne-

dene, and Maud, widow of John de Parrok,³ and the manor thus became divided into moieties. Maud shortly afterwards married Richard de Codyng and was holding her moiety with him in 1305.⁴ Richard de Codyng and Henry de Sherne-dene were each holding half a fee in 1320 and 1327.⁵ In 1332 Richard was still holding his moiety, but the other had passed to Gilbert de Maleville.⁶ Thomas de Codyng, tenant in 1339,⁷ appears to have been succeeded by John de Codyng, whose son John married Joan, daughter of William Batsford (and subsequently wife of Sir William Brenchly) and died before 1382, when the reversion of that moiety, then held for life by William Batsford, was conveyed to Roger Ashburnham.⁸ The other moiety seems to have been acquired in the meantime by the Ashburnhams and was held by Roger's widow Joan, in 1412⁹ and in 1417, when John Ashburnham, Roger's heir, mortgaged the reversion of both moieties to John Hall and others.¹⁰ Thomas Ashburnham, son of John, enfeoffed Sir Roger Fiennes, and after various law-suits¹¹ Sir Roger's son Richard, although in 1459 he was temporarily evicted by force from the manor by John and Richard Ashburnham, sons of Thomas,¹² was in possession of the manor in 1469,¹³ as was his son Sir John in 1475,¹⁴ and Ewhurst descended with Herstmonceux (q.v.) to Margaret, wife of Samson Lennard.¹⁵ They conveyed the manor in 1609 to John Bromfield, who died seised of it in 1623.¹⁶ Thomas Bromfield, son of John, seems to have conveyed the manor later to Sir Nathaniel Powell, who was in possession before 1660, and paid castle-guard rent for the manor from 1661 to 1670.¹⁷ From this time Ewhurst descended in the family of Powell and subsequently that of Webster, in the same manner as Bodiam (q.v.),¹⁸ until 1822, when it was sold by Sir Godfrey Vassal Webster to Thomas Pix.¹⁹ Thomas Smith Pix was the owner in 1870.²⁰ It was subsequently acquired by Charles J. Bolton-Clark. He died in August 1932 and was succeeded by his nephew John Percival Bolton-Clark.

KNOLL (now surviving as Knowle Corner) was a reputed manor which first appears in 1541,²¹ when it passed, at the death of Edward Piers, to his widow Margaret and his infant son Thomas. It was then held of Herstmonceux by knight's service.²² Knoll descended in the family of Piers, in the same manner as Goatley in Northiam (q.v.), until 1669,²³ and probably later. By 1700, however, the property had come to Gabriel Egles and his wife Martha, and in 1707 and 1717 was held by John Egles.²⁴ Nothing further is heard of it until 1783, when it was purchased from Sir John Lade by Joseph Stevens, on behalf of Mr. Day and William Collins.²⁵

LORDINE COURT [Lordistret (xi cent.); Lurdinstrete²⁶ (xiii-xiv cent.)] was a small manor of half a hide held before the Conquest by Wenestan, of Oswald.

¹ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 406a.

² Pipe R. 13 John, m. 16.

³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* iv, 78. A Nicholas Wacelyn is mentioned in the neighbourhood in 1230 and 1276: *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), 86, 120, 121. He was John's predecessor at Compton Wasseling in Hants: *V.C.H. Hants*, iii, 406.

⁴ Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 33 Edw. I.

⁵ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 103; *Subsidies* (Suss. Rec. Soc. x), 217.

⁶ *Ibid.* p. 328; *Coll. Top. et Gen.* vii, 118-19.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 6 Rich. II;

Cal. Close, 1389-92, p. 73.

⁹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* x, 144.

¹⁰ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 5 Hen. V;

Close R. 8 Hen. V, m. 7.

¹¹ Early Chan. Proc. bdle. 19, nos.

280-9. ¹² Add. Chart. 41847.

¹³ Rent. and Surv. (P.R.O.), 658.

¹⁴ Add. Chart. 23507.

¹⁵ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxlv, 129.

¹⁶ Feet of F. Suss. Hil. 6 Jas. I; *Inqs.*

(Suss. Rec. Soc. xiv), 175.

¹⁷ *Cal. S. P. Dom.* 1660-1, p. 38; Add.

MS. 5679, fol. 343.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*; *Recov. R.* Trin. 26 Geo. III,

ro. 47; *ibid.* 51 Geo. III, ro. 270.

¹⁹ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 518.

²⁰ Lower, *Sussex*, i, 169.

²¹ William atte Knolle is mentioned in Ewhurst in 1296: *Subsidies* (Suss. Rec. Soc. x), 12.

²² *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xxxiii, 10.

²³ *Ibid.* xiv, 862 and 835; *ibid.* xix, 258;

xx, 474.

²⁴ *Ibid.* xix, 258; *Recov. R.* Mich. 4

Geo. I. ²⁵ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 637.

²⁶ Members of the family de Lurdinstrete occur between 1206 and 1332: *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), 65 and 67; *Select Pleas of the Crown* (Selden Soc.), 99; *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, 13, 328.

In 1086 it was held of the Count of Eu by Wibert,¹ who was also lord of the manor of Herstmonceux, and Lordinestreet descended with that manor (q.v.), being held by the families of de Monceux and Fiennes until at least 1469,² the only sub-tenant mentioned being William Werthe, who held one knight's fee here in 1360.³ The manor seems to have been broken up before 1541, when Edward Piers died seized of land in Lordingstreet held of Sir Roger Lewknor as of his castle of Bodiam.⁴ From Edward's son Thomas these lands passed with Goatley in Northiam (q.v.) in 1606 to his son Lawrence, who died in 1624.⁵

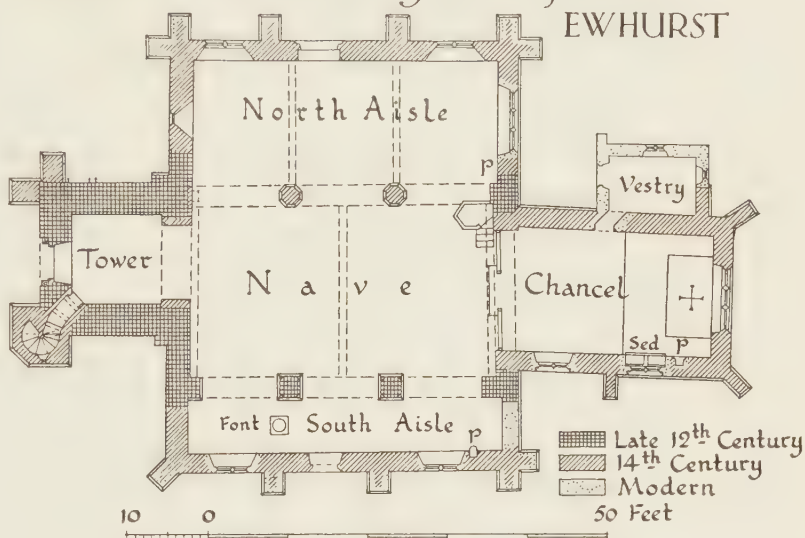
UDIAM [Hudeham, Hudiam (xii and xiii cent.); Odyhamme (xiv cent.); Udyham (xvi cent.)] is first mentioned about 1180, when it formed part of the possessions of Alvred de St. Martin, who in that year confirmed to Robert de Waliland '7 acres of my meadow of Hudeham which lies next to the stream called Limenel, opposite the meadow of the Abbot of Battle'.⁶ Udiam descended in the de Waliland family, as Welland (q.v.), until about 1207, when Richard de Hudiam, son of Geoffrey de Waliland, sold the manor to the abbey of Robertsbridge; an arrangement which was confirmed about 1245 by his descendant Mabel de Waliland.⁷ In 1325 and later it is referred to as 'the Abbot's manor of Odyhamme',⁸ and in 1535 was worth £5 13s. 4d.; at which time the tenant was Bartholomew Clark.⁹ In 1539 the reversion of this lease to Bartholomew and his son John was granted to Sir William Sidney and Agnes his wife, and confirmed in 1541.¹⁰ From Sir William, Udiam descended with the manor of Robertsbridge (q.v.), being held in 1612 of the king in chief by the service of a hundredth part of a knight's fee.¹¹ The estate is now the property of Messrs. A. Guinness & Co. and is devoted to the growing of hops.

WELLAND [Waliland (xi–xiv cent.)] was held before the Conquest by four brothers, who shared one hall there. In 1086 it was held of the Count of Eu by five men, Alwold, Anschitil, Roger, Hugh, and Osbern.¹² In 1160 the knight's fee of 'Waliland' was granted by Geoffrey de St. Martin to Alvred de St. Martin, the founder of Robertsbridge Abbey, to which house Alvred apparently gave it, for it was confirmed to them by John Count of Eu at the beginning of the 13th century,¹³ and remained in their possession until the Dissolution, when it was valued at 31s. 8d.¹⁴ It was pre-

sumably granted with the other possessions of Robertsbridge Abbey to Sir William Sidney and Agnes his wife and probably became merged in the manor of Udiam.

The first mention of a sub-tenant is about 1180, when Alvred de St. Martin granted certain lands of the lordship to Robert de Waliland.¹⁵ A Geoffrey de Waliland held land there very shortly afterwards, and his son Richard, also known as Richard de Hudiam (or Udiam), was living in 1207, and Wimar his widow in 1219.¹⁶ Robert and William de Waliland, possibly sons of Richard, are mentioned in 1210, and Welland descended to Robert's daughter Mabel, who married first Elias Folet and secondly, before 1246, Stephen de Barmling.¹⁷ Mabel and Elias had two children, Cecily, who married Richard Cumpayn, and Walter, who in

PARISH CHURCH of ST. JAMES EWHURST



1248 held Welland from his mother at a rent of 20s. yearly. Walter's widow Burgunnia married secondly John Winde, who in 1258 had a suit with Robertsbridge Abbey regarding the property.¹⁸ About 1260 John de Waliland, eldest son of Walter and Burgunnia, sold half the fee to Matthew de Knell for £60,¹⁹ and in 1346 Edmund de Knell, great-grandson of Matthew, restored it to the abbey of Robertsbridge.²⁰ At the time of the Dissolution the tenant was Bartholomew Clark, of Udiam.

The church of *ST. JAMES* consists of a chancel, modern north vestry, nave, north and south aisles, and west tower with a shingled spire. The south arcade and the base of the tower are of late-12th-century date and the rest of the fabric mainly 14th-century work. The chancel, vestry, and south aisle have slated roofs and the nave and north aisle are tiled.

The chancel has a late-14th-century east window of three lights, and on the south two modern windows of

¹ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 406b.

² *Rent. and Surv.* (P.R.O.), 658.

³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, 496.

⁴ *Inqs.* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xxxiii), 10.

⁵ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccxcii, 169; *ibid.* ccccv, 149.

⁶ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), 35.

⁷ *Ibid.* 60, 102.

⁸ *Ibid.* 138; *Coll. Top. et Gen.* vii, 118.

⁹ *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), i, 350.

¹⁰ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (1), 7, p. 422–3; xvi, g. 1056 (77).

¹¹ *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccxciii, 52; *Add. MS.* 5680, fol. 400.

¹² *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 407a.

¹³ *Egerton Chart.* 371; *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), 33, 59.

¹⁴ *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), i, 350.

¹⁵ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), 35.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* 59, 60, 61; *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. ii), 154.

¹⁷ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), 62, 86, 102, 103; *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. ii), 431–94.

¹⁸ *Egerton Chart.* 390; *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), 86.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* 109.

²⁰ *Egerton Chart.* 402.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

two lights under a square label. The chancel arch is of two orders dying into the walls and dates from the 14th century. The sedilia are modern, but the piscina is 14th-century, with a trefoil head and blank shields in the spandrels; the bowl and hood-moulding are modern. The south arcade of three bays has square piers with chamfered angles and square abacus with plain moulding, except the east respond, which has no moulding to the abacus; the arches are round. There are two clerestory windows with trefoiled heads and wide splays. The north arcade of three bays is of the 14th century with two octagonal columns with moulded capitals and bases; the west respond consists of a corbel carved with a grotesque figure, and the east respond is plain with a squared abacus and may be of late-12th-century date. The nave has an old king-post roof with modern boarding; the roofs of the chancel and aisles are modern.

The south aisle retains its original width, but the south wall was rebuilt in the 14th century. There are two modern windows in the south wall with plate tracery. The north aisle has a modern east window of three lights; the two windows in the north wall are of two trefoiled lights with quatrefoil above, and the west window is a plain single lancet of the 14th century. The north doorway is of two orders with continuous moulding. There is a 14th-century piscina with trefoiled head.

The tower arch is of two orders dying into the wall and belongs to the 14th century. The base of the tower is late-12th- and the upper portion 14th-century. The west doorway has rounded inner arch and pointed outer arch with banded angle-shafts with square capitals. Above is a two-light window with trefoil heads. The north and south belfry lights are single with cinquefoiled heads and moulded jambs, and the west has two lights with trefoiled heads under a square label.

The tower has 14th-century angle-buttresses on the west and a south-west stair-turret rising above the plain parapet.

The font is 12th-century, of local marble with square bowl, round shaft with moulded cap, and a square base.

On the west wall of the nave is a brass commemorating William Crysford, 1520, with an effigy of a civilian kneeling, hands raised in prayer; the inscription is lost.

The tower contains five bells all by Lester and Pack of London, 1760.¹

The plate consists of a communion cup and paten of

silver, ? 1758, a plated flagon, and an alms dish of pewter.²

The registers begin in 1570.

The church of Ewhurst with its *ADVOWSON* tithes and glebeland formed part of the endowment of the prebend of Ralph Tayard in the chapel of St. Mary within the Castle of Hastings.³ This prebend was subsequently usually referred to as the prebend of Hollington, Bodiam, and Ewhurst.⁴ At the Dissolution the whole was known as the prebend of Hollington, to which the advowson of the vicarage of Ewhurst pertained, and it was granted in 1547 to Sir Anthony Browne.⁵ It remained in the hands of that family, the Viscounts Montagu, for about a century, the rectorial tithes being restored.⁶ In 1596 the advowson was granted, presumably for a term of years, by Anthony Viscount Montagu, to Hugh Hoche-kis, who conveyed it in 1602 to John Laye, who bequeathed it to his son Thomas in 1608.⁷ It was sold by Francis Viscount Montagu in 1642 to Nathaniel Powell,⁸ subsequently lord of the manor of Ewhurst, and it then descended with the manor until 1824,⁹ after which it appears to have been sold to John Usbornes, who presented in 1835.¹⁰ It was, however, acquired about that date by King's College, Cambridge, with whom it has remained.¹¹

At the Dissolution of the Chantries in 1547 ten acres of land in Brightling, in the tenure of William Gyfforde, maintained two lights in the church of Ewhurst.¹²

Miss Mary Elizabeth Daws, by her *CHARITIES* will proved at Lewes on 10 April 1873, gave £100 upon trust to apply the dividends for the Sunday school and the promotion of bible knowledge amongst poor children. The endowment produces £3 15s. per annum.

Blanket Charity. This parish participates in the East Hastings and Fairlight Blanket Fund, particulars of which are set out under the parish of Ore, Christ Church.

Arthur Widdrington Herdman, by his will proved in London on 28 December 1914, gave £150 to the parish council upon trust to apply the income for the upkeep of the village recreation ground and for Christmas presents for the children of Ewhurst Green school. In 1921 part of the endowment was expended on fencing the recreation ground and the endowment now produces in dividends about £3 10s. The recreation ground is let at a rental of £3, which is expended in gifts to school children.

NORTHIAM

Hiham (xi cent.); Northiam, Northyhamme (xiii cent.).

The parish of Northiam has an area of 3,584 acres, of which 10 are water. It is bounded on the north by the River Rother, and the southern limit touches the Tillingham River. Between these two areas of low elevation the ground undulates, reaching a level of 200 ft. at various points. Many roads intersect the parish. In the southern part the hamlet of Hornscross is situated at the crossing of roads from Northiam village south to Broad Oak, and from Staple Cross west

to Beckley. The village itself is farther north, with the rectory and park at the southern end. St. Mary's Church lies on the east side of the main street, in the angle of a lane running from it north-east to Goatley and then to Gate Court and the railway station, on the edge of the Rother floodlands, and the Kentish border.

The village lies along the main road from Hastings, with a rectangular green, east of the road, on which is the village pump and an ancient hollow oak (now fortified with brickwork and chains) beneath which Queen Elizabeth is reputed to have rested in 1573 when on

¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 208.

² *Ibid.* lv, 201.

³ *Ibid.* xiii, 137.

⁴ *Cal. Pat.* 1327-30, pp. 313 and 526; *ibid.* 1370-4, p. 167; *ibid.* 1374-7, p. 170.

⁵ *L. and P. Hen.* VIII, xxi (2), g. 771 (3).

⁶ Feet of F. Suss. East. 18 Chas. I.

⁷ *Sussex Deeds* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xxix), 494.

⁸ Feet of F. Suss. East. 18 Chas. I.

⁹ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 519; Lower, *Sussex*, i, 169.

¹² *Cal. Pat. Edw.* VI, ii, 384.



EWHURST CHURCH: THE TOWER, FROM THE WEST



NORTHIAM: BRICKWALL, NORTH FRONT



NORTHIAM: STRAWBERRY HOLE

her way to Rye.¹ 'Timber House', west of the green, has close studding in a gabled projecting wing, and rectangular framing with curved struts on the north side, and is probably late-16th-century. 'Farthings',² north of this house, is of about the same date and has a jettied half-hipped gable head. On the east of the road the Crown and Thistle Inn is partly of the 17th century. It has a projecting gable on shaped brackets, and a central chimney-stack of cross plan with large fire-places. There are open-timbered ceilings and one room is panelled. A little farther north, an L-shaped farmhouse has a similar stack and some 17th-century timber-framing.

Brickwall, at the southern end of the village, is first mentioned in 1491, when Richard son of William Goodwyn sold it to Thomas White.³ His son John in 1589 settled it on himself, his wife Jane, and his heirs male, and died in 1599, leaving an infant son William by his second wife Mary.⁴ Brickwall had been rented in 1583 from John White by John Frewen, and after the death of William White in 1666 the house was purchased by Stephen Frewen,⁵ fourth son of John, who established his family there. Brickwall remained the seat of the Frewen family until recently,⁶ but is now let as a school for girls. The Frewens made considerable alterations to the house; all the exterior except the front was faced with brickwork, the back wings were lengthened, and a saloon was added behind the middle bay of the main block. Further additions to the east side were carried out in the early 19th century and the south ends of the wings have been remodelled in the present century. The north elevation is of closely set framing and each of the three main bays has a projecting bay-window of two stories and a projecting gable-head. In the middle bay the bressummer of the projection, which is greater than that of the others, forms the base of the gable-head, but in the side bays the bressummers are set lower and have pendant-posts at each end below the gables. In the west gable the bressummer is enriched with guilloche ornament; its pendant-posts are carved and terminate in scrolls with grotesque masks; the western post bears the date 1617. Behind the pendants are scrolled brackets carved with foliage. The barge-board is carved with grotesque masks and pierced scroll ornament and at the apex is a carved pendant and pinnacle. In the middle gable the bressummer bears scrolled foliage and strap ornament and the characters W M W 1633.⁷ The brackets behind the pierced turned pendants are here carved as crouching harpies. The barge-board is elaborately carved with foliage and figures; the apex-post has a moulded pinnacle and a pendant carved as a small human figure. In the contemporary east gable the bressummer and pendant-posts are ornately carved and there are squatting satyrs as brackets. The barge-board is a variation on that of the middle gable.

The bay-windows, each of four lights in front and single lights at the sides, have moulded features and in the east and west bays are flanked by small side-windows of three lights, level with their upper lights. The middle main bay contains, in the bay-window, an entrance doorway of the 18th century with a shell-hood over it.

In all three gable-heads are windows of three lights. The whole of the timber-framing is painted black and the infilling and window-frames painted white, with much of the carving. The front is underpinned with modern brick and has a chamfered plinth. Above the roof are modern chimney-stacks with ornamental round shafts. The west side is of late-17th-century brick up to a straight joint marking the south limit of the staircase wing. The extension to the south is also of about the same period, but has a projecting chimney-stack dated 1832. The south ends of the two wings are of brick, but have timber-framed gable-heads: each wing has a modern square bay-window. The wall of the saloon between the two wings is of 18th-century brick and has tall sash-windows. The large east wing was added in 1873.

Little remains inside of the earliest period. The entrance hall has a good geometrical ceiling with moulded ribs of uncertain age. The eastern front room has an original moulded ceiling-beam; the western is lined with early-18th-century panelling, but the overmantel incorporates some early-16th-century panels with carved heads, &c. The room above the entrance hall is lined with Cordova leather and has an early-18th-century fire-place. The western front room, the former 'Step Bedchamber', has early-17th-century panelling with a fluted frieze and a fine stone fire-place, the lintel of which is carved with a vine and bird design and has a shield charged with two pales and a chief with a running talbot thereon (for White). The two kitchens in the east wing have had the chimney-stack between them removed and now form one chamber:⁸ it has a mantel-piece made up of old carving, Ionic columns and terminal figures, with the date 1646. The saloon behind the entrance hall has a very elaborate plaster ceiling of the early 18th century, enriched with fruit, foliage, and bird decoration. The fire-place is of the Queen Anne period, as are several in other rooms.

The main staircase in the west wing is of late-17th-century date: it has 3½ in. twisted and turned balusters and square newels. The ceiling of the stair-hall forms an eight-sided domed cupola: the sides lean inwards and have foliage and flower ornament and shields and crests of the Frewen family, and on the east and west are oval lights. There are several 18th-century panels of glass in the entrance hall and saloon, mostly heraldic. The building is rich in family portraits and other paintings.

The gardens south of the house are planted with shaped yew-trees and have raised walks, &c. In the east garden-wall are early-18th-century gate-posts with fluted urns above the caps. In the back-wall of the modern east wing is set a small stone sundial with the initials W H, the date 1663, the words 'VIVAT CAROLVS SECVNDVS' and other Latin inscriptions.

Hayes Farm, south of the church, is mainly of the 18th century, but the back wing appears to be of early-16th-century origin. It had an overhanging upper story along the north side with a moulded bressummer and with closely set studding; most of it has been underbuilt in brick. The easternmost bay of the wing is a 17th-century extension and has some square framing in the upper story. There are wide fire-places, that in the

¹ A pair of shoes alleged to have been left behind by the Queen are preserved at Brickwall.

² Here Dr. Thomas Frewen in 1749 started a private establishment for inoculation against small-pox: Frewen, *Brick-*

wall, 53.

³ Frewen, *Brickwall, Northiam, and Brede*, 58.

⁴ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cclxii, 149.

⁵ Alderman of London and Master of the Skinner's Company.

⁶ Frewen, *op. cit.*

⁷ William White married Mary, sister of Sir Thomas Sackville of Sedlescombe.

⁸ The drawing-rooms in the west wing have also been thrown together.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

kitchen having a moulded arched lintel of oak, and exposed ceiling timbers.

Church House, north-east of the church, is a mid-16th-century house, L-shaped in plan, remodelled late in the 17th century and now H-shaped. The west front is of red and black bricks, the dressings of red brick: at the first-floor level is a plain string-course. The moulded cornice is of wood. Each story has a range of tall and narrow sash-windows. The doorway is flanked by fluted pilasters carrying a moulded entablature, all of wood.¹ Some of the original timber-framing is exposed in the south half of the back wall but most of it is covered with tile-hanging. The back of the north half is curiously faced with boarding cut to resemble rusticated stone ashlar and painted white. Inside, the main front block has moulded ceiling-beams of the 16th century, and a chamfered beam, against the back wall, which is supported by moulded wood corbels. The north room is lined with bolelection-moulded panelling. The main staircase has twisted balusters of the late 17th century. The staircase in the back angle is probably of the 16th century: it is a winding stair about a central oak newel. The upper rooms have been heightened and have chamfered ceiling-beams. One of them is lined with panelling of c. 1600. There are several ancient doors in the back wing hung with 'cock's head' hinges. In the garden is a sundial dated 1629, by John Goodwin.

Silverden Hall is a small timber-framed and thatched house of c. 1450 and had a hall-place of two bays with two-storied wings. The east wing has a jettied upper story on the south front and the eaves of the hall is coved out to the same plane, with a longitudinal curved brace to the roof-plate. The west wing was probably also jettied in front but has been underbuilt in brick: this wing was subsequently lengthened at the back at some quite early period.² The upper floor was inserted in the hall c. 1600, also the central chimney-stack, with a single great fire-place towards the former hall, next to the east wing. The middle truss of the hall has a cambered and chamfered tie-beam and curved braces which form an arch springing from hollow-chamfered pilasters on the faces of the posts. Its king-post is square, but has on each face a square pilaster, cut out of the solid, from which rise four-way braces. The original framing in the west end of the hall has curved braces and a king-post supported by struts. At the east end of the hall, interrupted by the chimney-stack, is the usual moulded wall-beam: it is battlemented, but is exceptional in having the top beading in one unbroken length, the embrasures or notches being cut under and behind it. The later ceiling has heavy stop-chamfered beams. The internal plaster infilling has combing in diapers and wavy lines.

The original entrance to the hall, in the south wall next the west wing, has an elliptical arch and square head with spandrels carved with a small quatrefoil in a circle, and with foliage. In the face of the east or solar wing is another unusual feature, a pair of doorways with Tudor arches, now converted to windows. The old framing in the south front of the hall and solar is of closely set studding and includes small brackets to the

coving of the projecting eaves of the hall.³ The other walls have rectangular panels with plastered infilling and curved struts to the main posts.

Goteley Manor, north-east of Silverden Hall, is now two tenements. It is a house of T-shaped plan dating from c. 1560, but refronted in 1858.⁴ The gable-head at the south end of the front block is jettied and has a moulded bressummer. The back wing—the stem of the T—has some exposed timber-framing: the upper story of the east end is jettied, but the wall is plastered. The lower room of the south half has stop-moulded main beams in the ceiling and stop-chamfered joists. In the north half the main beams are chamfered, with moulded stops. The upper beams are said to be similar.

Great Dixter is a house of c. 1470, with a great hall about 40 ft. by 25 ft., a solar wing, at the north-west end, and a two-storied porch wing on the front at the other end of the hall. When the house was described in 1909 by Mr. J. E. Ray it had later inserted floors and a central chimney-stack in the great hall.⁵ The building has since been very thoroughly restored by the late Mr. Nathaniel Lloyd, the hall cleared of the inserted floors and chimney-stack, new windows inserted, new chimney-stacks built, and much other repair and renovation carried out. The buttery-wing had disappeared before 1909: its place is now taken by modern additions while, adjoining the south and south-east,⁶ another medieval house from Benenden in Kent was reconstructed with the old material. The hall, now open to the roof, is of four unequal bays; the middle truss is a good example of the normal king-post type with four-way braces below a collar-beam and central purlin: the cambered and moulded tie-beam has curved braces below it, forming a four-centred arch, supported by moulded wall-posts which have attached small shafts with moulded capitals: the bases are cut away. The spandrels of the arches are foiled. The truss is not central; there are two bays of 9 ft. and 8 ft. west of it and two larger bays of 12 ft. 8 in. and 9 ft. 6 in. east of it: the last may have been originally wider before the buttery-wing was destroyed. The other trusses are of hammer-beam type, a rare form of construction for houses of this period. The hammer-beams are short; they are supported by curved brackets springing from wall-shafts which have moulded capitals: the bases were cut away for the former inserted upper floor. On the hammer-beams are curved braces which form arches below the collar-beams. On the ends of the beams are carved shields: one is blank, two are charged fretty for Echingham, one a chevron between three greyhounds for Gaynesford, and one with an engrailed cross for Dalingridge. The sixth carving is not a shield but has various decorative devices. There are said to have been formerly carved angels above the shields. The westernmost truss is set only a few inches away from the west end, which is the side of the solar wing.⁷ The hall has moulded wall-beams in the side walls and west end and moulded cornices. The lower part of the west end wall has a few studs, including a strutted middle post, but the upper part is constructed of close studding, as are the outer walls. All the windows are modern. The plate of the projecting eaves is supported by a curved

north-east front is treated as north and the other sides similarly.

⁷ Mr. Ray infers that the hall had another bay westward, and that its length was twice its breadth; but this proportion is not often found in the medieval houses of this district.

¹ A 16th-century panelled door, now rehung in the kitchen block, may be the original front door.

² This is shown by the double posts in its east and west walls; the front room has wide flat ceiling joists, in the other rooms they are smaller.

³ In the upper story of the hall is an Elizabethan window of four latticed lights.

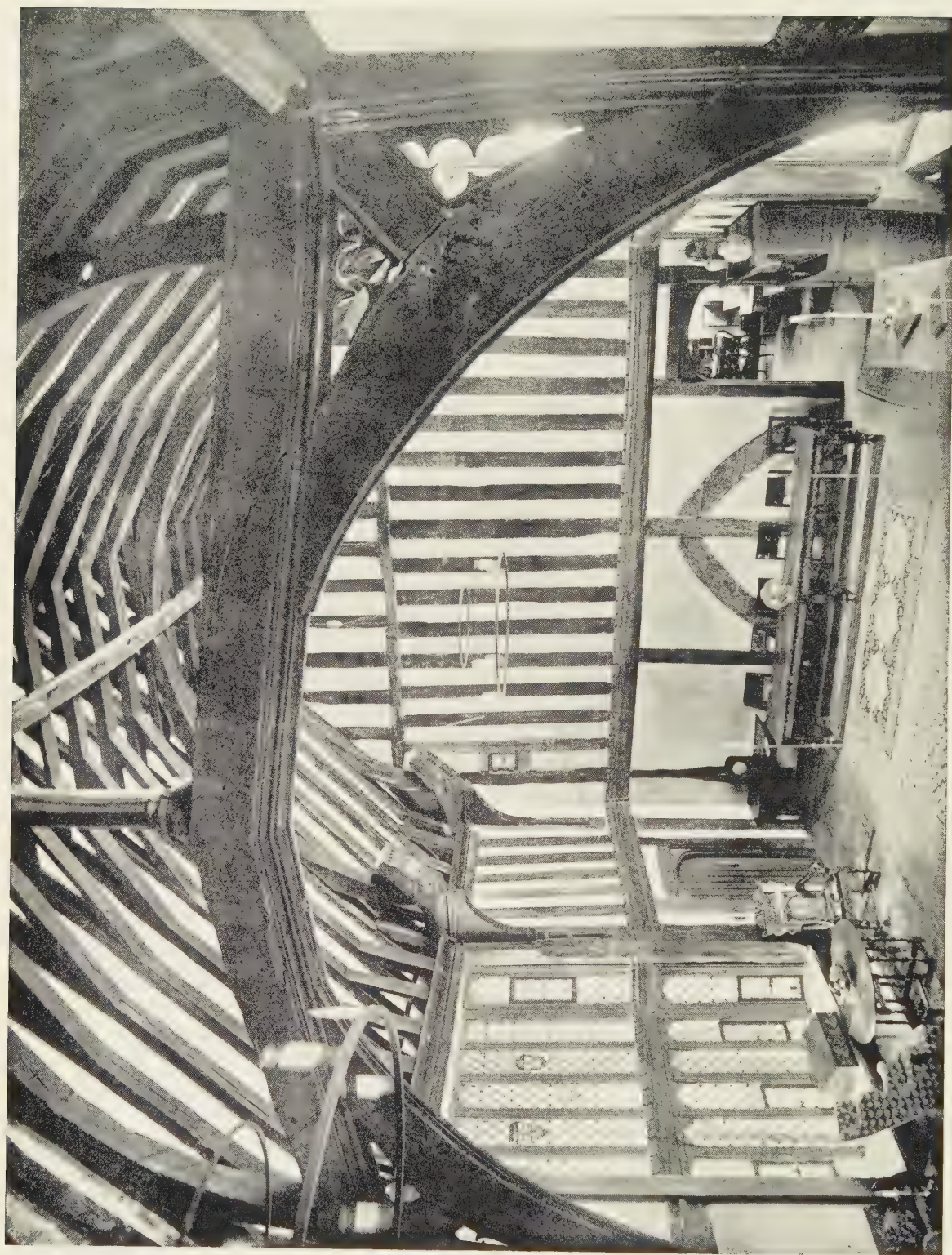
⁴ *Ex inf.* Lady Wolseley.

⁵ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lii. From the arms in the hall roof the building can be fairly closely dated as between 1464 and 1479.

⁶ For convenience of description the



NORTHAM: GREAT DIXTER



NORTHIAM: GREAT DIXTER, THE HALL

brace from the side of the solar wing (as at Silverden Hall) and by curved brackets from the main wall.

The solar wing, which is also of close studding in its front and back walls, is of three bays divided by trusses with moulded posts, arched braces, cambered tie-beams, and king-posts with mouldings similar to but slightly less elaborate than those of the hall. The lower story has an open-timbered ceiling with moulded main beams, longitudinal and transverse; in the west wall is a wide stone fire-place. The upper story opens from a modern staircase by an original doorway at the south end: it has moulded oak posts and a Tudor arch. The stone fire-place has a flat four-centred arch in a square head: the spandrels are carved with a hawk's lure and stag's head. The upper story of the wing is jettied on the north front and has a gable-head with a moulded base-board: the barge-boards are carved with trefoiled semicircular foils.

The gabled front porch, of two stories, jettied on all three faces, has moulded bressummers on curved brackets. The lower story has open arcaded sides on dwarf brick walls and an open-timbered ceiling with diagonal beams to the angles. The doorway to the hall has a four-centred arch in a square head with carved spandrels of foliage. The upper story is open to the roof, which has a king-post truss like the others. The front oriel-window is modern, but the two-light windows in the side walls are old and are fitted inside with sliding shutters.

The Benenden house is set quite apart from the original house and is reached through the other additions. It has a great hall of two bays with a king-post roof, moulded wall-beams, &c., and solar and buttery cross-wings. The east side of the east wing is jettied. The walls are of close timber-framing and some of the windows appear to be ancient, including one to the hall of five lights in two stages.

Little Dixter retains the north wing of an early-16th-century house which was partially burnt some years ago. Some of the old timber-framing is visible inside, with various curved braces, &c., and open-timbered ceilings on both floors. The roof has wind-braced side-purlins and is of five bays. In the north side is an Elizabethan bay-window with moulded features in the upper story: the lower part has been altered: the head of the bay is gabled and has a moulded bressummer and barge-board and a two-light blocked window. In the upper story is an old partition wall of boards and battens with a Tudor doorway in it. The central chimney is modern above the roof: it has wide fire-places; one on the upper floor has a raised hearth.

Higham retains the remains of an early-15th-century¹ great hall of two 10-ft. bays with a middle truss having an octagonal king-post and four-way braces, and smoke-blackened rafters. In the back wall is an original five-light window in the upper floor. Two floors have been inserted in the hall, both with moulded ceiling-beams. The south wing (c. 1500) extends back, to the west, making the plan L-shaped; it has a wind-braced roof of three 16-ft. bays. The west end shows some original framing, but its lower story has been removed for a low extension: the top rail of the wall is left in place and contains mortices for the diamond mullions of a window of eight lights.

Domons, north-east of Higham, is an L-shaped building, much altered in modern times: the stuccoed

front is of quasi-Tudor design with hood-moulds to the windows and a parapet (of wood?) decorated with shields in quatrefoil panels, the middle shield bearing a pheon, from the arms of the Sharpe family who were the 16th-century owners. Other walls are of brick and hung with tiling. On the south side is a gable-head which retains a bracket of c. 1600, carved with a quatrefoil in a circle, as seen at Silverden Hall and Strawberry Hole. The principal feature of the house is the fine central chimney-stack of brick which has, above the roof, a cluster of four octagonal shafts around a similar central shaft, all on a square base: the shafts have moulded bases and moulded cappings: the latter are star-shaped in plan around the outer shafts and are conjoined: at the points of the stars are spurs of two vertical rolls. One fire-place contains a late-17th-century iron fire-back of the oak tree and crown design, like others in the district.

Strawberry Hole is a late-15th-century house facing west. The original part, of close-set timber-framing, is rectangular and divided into three unequal main bays. The middle and north bays are under one roof, gabled at the north end; the south bay forms a cross-wing projecting slightly on the west front and gabled at both ends. The north side of the north bay and its west front are jettied. The overhanging upper story has a moulded bressummer on its two faces and curved brackets springing from moulded cappings: there is a similar bressummer to the north gable. In the lower story on the north is a pair of original three-light windows with moulded mullions, now blocked, as is the original entrance-doorway on the west. It has moulded jambs and a four-centred arch in a square head. The spandrels are carved, the northern with foliage and a quatrefoil in a circle; the southern has cross-keys and a device which may be intended for a mitre. The eaves of the middle bay, being in line with that of the jettied north bay, is of deep projection and has later struts, fixed on the face of the wall. The lower story of the projecting south bay is of old framing; the upper story is covered with weather-boarding. The upper story of the south side is spaced by main timbers into three bays: the studding in the west bay is more closely set than in the others. To the east in the south half is a later wing. The main east wall north of it shows close studding to the middle bay and wider framing, including a curved strut under the wall-plate, in the north bay. The central chimney-stack is square, with pilasters on two sides, and is partly of old thin bricks.

There are many interesting features inside. The great fire-place to the middle room retains a fine moulded and arched oak lintel with spandrels carved with roses and foliage. This room has a moulded longitudinal ceiling-beam and is divided from the south bay by an oak partition which is formed with a series of vertical concave panels and has a moulded top-rail: a door in the east end of it is of similar panels, and there are doorways in the west end and in the back wall with carved foliage spandrels. East of the central chimney-stack is an old and steep winding staircase. Another staircase in the north-east angle is modern. Several rooms have chamfered ceiling-beams; and in one room the arched lintel of a fire-place has been re-used as a wall-post. The roof retains some remains of the original roof: the plain king-posts are strutted from the tie-beams and carry curved braces below a central purlin.

¹ A wall-beam in the north wall has moulding of c. 1400.

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Carrier's Farm,¹ nearly one mile south of the church, is a small thatched timber-framed building. The middle room has a moulded wall-beam of fairly early 15th-century type with stops, one of which is carved with a trefoil. The roof construction cannot be seen inside, but the upper story contains framing suggesting the existence of a king-post truss above.

Well House, just south of Carrier's Farm, is a thatched house of mid- to late-15th-century date, containing a great hall of two bays of 12 ft. and 10 ft. with the usual solar and buttery wings. It was lengthened by another bay at the north end about a century later. After the Brickwall estate was purchased by Stephen Frewen in 1666 it is said to have been occupied by a forester of that estate. It was restored in 1823 and the hounds were kept in kennels east of the house. The hall was later used as a store for timber.² The present tenant has renovated the building. The hall has apparently never had the usual upper floors and chimney-stack inserted in it, and is open from the floor to the roof. It has a middle truss with curved braces, forming an arch below the tie-beam, and a king-post, with a moulded capital and base, carrying curved four-way braces. At both ends of the hall are moulded and embattled wall-beams and exposed framing with curved struts to the outer wall-posts and strutted king-posts above the tie-beams. A fire-place and chimney-stack have been inserted at the south end of the hall, in the solar wing. This wing has an open-timbered ceiling and its south side is jettied. The buttery-wing has a cellar below it. The Elizabethan extension north of this has a lower floor—following the slope of the ground outside. The ceiling-beams and wall-posts are stop-chamfered. The oak lintel of its wide fire-place has a socket for a former jack or crane. Above it is a fragment of wall-painting, chiefly a chequer of blue triangles. Several of the ledged doors are ancient.

The external framing is in square panels with curved struts to the upper stories of the original wings and with plaster infilling. The pointed entrance to the hall and many of the windows are modern. In the Elizabethan addition is an original window, to the lower story, of five lights with moulded mullions: below it are three modern lights, so that the old sill is now a transom in part. The upper story has a square oriel of five lights and a transom, also with moulded mullions and sill; it is carried on curved brackets. The addition has a projecting gable-head with a stop-moulded bressummer on shaped brackets; the barge-board is modern.

Yew Tree Farm,³ on the south of the road from Beckley to Horn's Cross, is a 15th-century house which had a hall-place and solar and buttery wings. The hall-place was altered early in the 17th century by the insertion of the upper floor and the remodelling of the north front: the central chimney-stack was in the east wing so that the length of the hall-place was unchanged. Its original wall-beams are moulded, the western being of a fairly early contour. The upper story has close-studded timber-framing with curved struts, but the outer walls of the lower are of modern brick. In the middle of the front is a bay-window with four lights in each story; the upper story also has smaller side-lights in the main wall ranging with the upper half of the window, like those at Brickwall. Above the bay-window the head of the main bay, the width of which is

nearly the length of the original hall-place, has a projecting gable of close timbering with a moulded bressummer and an apical pendant. The barge-board is richly carved with scrolls, &c., between twisted fillets and is partly pierced.

Tanhouse Farm, nearly a mile south of Well House, is a timber-framed house of *c.* 1490; it was apparently always a two-storied building and one of the immediate successors of the medieval hall-place type. The plan is a modified T; in the stem, to the east, is the hall or principal room of the ground-floor. This has panelling, mostly of the late 16th century, a good ceiling with moulded beams and posts, and a large east fire-place with an oak lintel. There are similar beams in the other rooms, and the fire-place in the room over the hall has a moulded and arched lintel. The walls, and the internal partitions also, are mostly of close-set timbers, but externally much of the lower story has been replaced by brick and the upper story weather-boarded or tile-hung. The ends of the wings are gabled, that on the south front being jettied on curved brackets. There are, in the west wing, two or three original windows with hollow-chamfered mullions: they are now blocked. The roofs are of the wind-braced, side-purlin type of framing and are tiled. Above them are plain chimney-stacks of small bricks.

Doucegrove is a small, thatched, late-15th-century house. It had a hall-place of one story and a west solar wing. Evidence remains in the roof of an 11½-ft. bay to the hall, and it is probable that the chimney-stack inserted (with the upper floor) *c.* 1600 occupies the east bay of a two-bay hall, the roof of the east bay being altered for it.⁴ The space east of the chimney-stack, 7 ft. thick, has been augmented by the removal of the east wall of the lower story and the addition of a 'lean-to'. The embattled moulded wall-beam of the west end of the hall remains in the lower story. The roof is a plain one with a king-post next to the chimney-stack supported by struts and carrying a longitudinal brace below a central purlin. The rafters are smoke-blackened. In the west wall are curved struts and some deeply combed diaper ornament in the plaster infilling. The west solar wing has wide flat ceiling-joists, which are trimmed round a space in the north-east corner for a former stair. The great fire-place is 10 ft. wide and has a chamfered oak lintel with a socket for a roasting-jack or crane, and an iron fire-back with a design representing Jupiter and an eagle. The hall has stop-chamfered ceiling-beams and smaller joists than the solar wing. The external framing is of rectangular panels with a few of the original curved struts: the west wall is underbuilt with brick and tile-hung in the upper story. At the east end and at the back are modern widenings with the roof brought down over them.

There are two Methodist chapels. A market is held on alternate Wednesdays.

The soil is loamy with a subsoil of clay, and the principal crops are wheat and hops.

HIHAM, before the Conquest, was part *MANORS* of the property of Earl Godwin and in 1086 it was held by the Count of Eu in demesne.⁵ The centre of the manor was presumably at the present Higham, but by the beginning of the 13th century the vill, or parish, was known as North Hyham,

¹ Accepted Frewen, Archbishop of York, was born here in 1598: Frewen, *Hist. of Brickwall*, 49.

² *Ex inf.* Lady Wolseley.

³ At present tea-rooms.

⁴ The hall, however, may have been

smaller, with an east buttery wing.

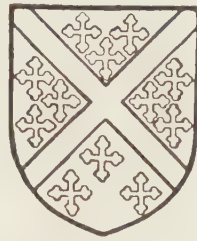
⁵ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 406b.

or Northiam,¹ in distinction from the important manor of Iham, in which New Winchelsea was afterwards built. The Domesday manor seems soon to have been split up and to have lost its identity, though the estate of Northiam Place, said to have been held from the 14th century by the Tuftons, afterwards Earls of Thanet, is alleged to have been manorial.² The Place was sold soon after 1786 by the Earl of Thanet to E. J. Curteis, who was the owner in 1835.³ His grandson Herbert Mascall Curteis sold it before 1870 to Lord Harry Vane, Duke of Cleveland,⁴ and it is now owned by Charles J. J. Bolton-Clark.

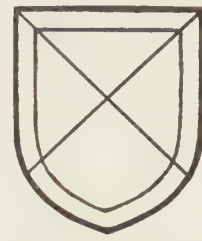
DIXTER [Dicsterue, Dixerue (xiii cent.)] is first mentioned about 1220, at which time the witnesses to a charter include William de Kichinore and Robert, his brother, of Dixter.⁵ It may therefore have belonged to a branch of the Kichenour family of Beckley. There is no record of the overlordship until 1459, when it was held of Goatley manor,⁶ but about 1790 Dixter was said to pay 16s. 6d. yearly to Ewhurst manor.⁷

In the Muster Roll of 1339-40 Hamon at Gate was assessed at one bowman for his land at Dixter, then worth 40s.⁸ His daughter Joan married Robert Echingham,⁹ and in 1412 Dixter was held by a later Robert and was worth £20. This Robert's daughter Elizabeth married Richard Wakehurst, and their granddaughters and co-heirs, Margaret and Elizabeth, were abducted and married by Richard and Nicholas Colepeper,¹⁰ who subsequently claimed the manor. It had, however, apparently been entailed, and on the death of Elizabeth Wakehurst reverted to Sir Thomas Echingham. He settled the manor on his elder daughter Margaret, possibly as a marriage portion, for in 1479 Sir John Elrington, second husband of Margaret, received a licence to fortify his manors of Dixter and Udimore, and impark lands there. At the same time he received free warren and free fishery there.¹¹ Sir John was Clerk of the Hanaper and Keeper of the Wardrobe to Edward IV, and Treasurer of the Household to Edward V, being also Bailiff of Winchelsea. He died in 1484 and his widow Margaret continued to hold the manor.¹² At her death, however, Dixter passed to her daughters by her first husband William Blount: Elizabeth wife of Andrew Lord Windsor and Alice wife of Sir David Owen. Elizabeth and Andrew were holding half the manor in 1503-4,¹³ and upon the death of Alice without issue the other half would revert to them or their heirs. Andrew Lord Windsor died in 1543, and was succeeded by his son William, who died in 1558.¹⁴ His grandson Henry sold Dixter in 1596 to John Glydd, who was still holding it in 1614.¹⁵ By 1643 it had come into the possession of three sisters, probably his daughters, Rachel wife of Thomas Mills, and Elizabeth and Susan Glydd.¹⁶ Susan shortly afterwards married John Wallis, D.D., and Elizabeth be-

came the wife of Hilkiah Reader.¹⁷ By 1672 the whole had come into the hands of Rachel Mills, then a widow, and her six children.¹⁸ Subsequently the manor was acquired by Samuel Gott and descended from him to



WINDSOR. Gules a saltire argent between twelve crosslets or.



GOTT. Party saltirewise argent and sable a border counter-coloured.

his son and grandson, both named Peter, the latter of whom died in 1732, leaving four sons, all of whom died without issue. The three surviving daughters, Elizabeth, Mary, and Sarah, held the manor in thirds until the death of Elizabeth in 1754, after which Mary and Sarah each had a moiety. Mary died in 1768 and left her share by will to her kinsman Thomas Greening, who took the name of Gott, and as Sir Henry Thomas Gott was owner of that moiety in 1790. The other half was bequeathed by Sarah Gott to the three infant daughters of her kinsman William Western Hugessen. Of these Sarah died young, Dorothea married Joseph Banks, created a baronet in 1781, and Mary married Edward Knatchbull. The two younger sisters were each in possession of a quarter of the manor in 1780 and in 1790.¹⁹ At that time the manor had three mills and five dovecotes. Mary and Edward Knatchbull had two sons, Edward and Norton Joseph, who may have succeeded; Sir Joseph Banks died without issue in 1820 and his widow Dorothea about 1828,²⁰ but evidently both families parted with Dixter some time before this. In an assessment of 1801 the owner of Dixter is given as Thomas Pix,²¹ but early in the 19th century the whole manor was acquired by the Springett family, the holder in 1835 being Edmund Springett.²² It seems to have descended to his son George,²³ and was bought in 1913 by Nathaniel Lloyd, O.B.E., F.S.A., since whose death in 1933 the estate has been in the hands of Mrs. Lloyd.

GATECOURT was apparently from early times the home of a family of atte Gate. In 1235 Robert 'de Porta' had land in Northiam,²⁴ and in, or shortly before, 1284 John atte Gate died, leaving to his son Henry property²⁵ which in 1308 is called a manor.²⁶ At that date Henry had a wife Sarah, and sons Robert and Hamon.²⁷ From 1327 to 1340 John atte Gate held the manor, returned at the latter date as 'La Gate', and liable to provide one hobelier to the king's forces.²⁸ The Gate

¹ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), 64, 68.

² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xxiii, 170; Add. MS. 5680, fol. 89.

³ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 516.

⁴ Lower, *Sussex*, ii, 63.

⁵ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), 76. A Stephen de Dixerue is mentioned in 1276 (*ibid.* 120); and Florence de Dykesterue in 1327: *Subsidies* (Suss. Rec. Soc.), 217.

⁶ Add. MS. 39376, fol. 107.

⁷ *Ibid.* 5679, fol. 313.

⁸ *Coll. Top. et Gen.* vii, 120.

⁹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lii, 153.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1476-85, p. 162.

¹² *Ibid.* p. 495; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xiii, 116-17.

¹³ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xxiii), no. 3371.

¹⁴ G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*. His widow Elizabeth married George Puttenham and held the manor: Chan. Proc. (Ser. 2), cxlvi, 5.

¹⁵ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 131; *ibid.* xxxiii, 240; Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccclv, 43.

¹⁶ Feet of F. Suss. East. 19 Chas. I.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* Mich. 22 Chas. I; *ibid.* Hil. 23 Chas. I; *ibid.* East. 1656; *ibid.* East. 1658.

¹⁸ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. xix), 132.

¹⁹ Add. MS. 5679, fol. 313; Recov. R. Trin. 20 Geo. III, ro. 259; *ibid.* Hil. 21 Geo. III, ro. 320.

²⁰ G.E.C. *Baronetage*, v, 210.

²¹ Frewen, *Brickwall, Northiam, and Brede*, 87.

²² Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 516.

²³ Berry, *Sussex Gen.* 240.

²⁴ *Fines* (Suss. Rec. Soc. ii), 320.

²⁵ Add. MS. 39373, fol. 83.

²⁶ *Ibid.* fol. 207, 218.

²⁷ Feet of F. Suss. Mich. 2 Edw. II.

²⁸ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, 217, 328; *Coll. Top. et Gen.* vii, 120.

A HISTORY OF SUSSEX

family were still holding land in the parish in 1428,¹ but the manor had come into the possession of Robert Echingham,² who also held the manor of Dixter, and Gatecourt descended with that manor to the Windsor family.³ Henry Lord Windsor, who succeeded in 1585, apparently sold it to Thomas Piers, who died seised of it in 1606, leaving it to his son Laurence.⁴ From Laurence it descended to his son Thomas Piers in 1624,⁵ and successively to his son Sir Thomas, and grandson George Piers, who died without issue in 1720.⁶ Gatecourt was then probably acquired by Sir Thomas Dunk, since his heiress Anne Dunk conveyed his lands (including part of Bodiam, q.v.) by marriage in 1741 to George Montagu, Earl of Halifax, and they were in possession of the manor in 1746.⁷ Subsequently it came into the possession of the Tresse family, Thomas Tresse being the holder in 1786 and 1788,⁸ Francis Tresse in 1801, and his heir in 1835.⁹ After this date no further history of the manor is recorded.



ATTE GATE. . . . three gates . . . (from a contemporary seal).

GOATLEY [Gotele (xiii–xiv cent.); Goteley, Gotley (xvi–xvii cent.)] formed part of the 2½ fees held from the 13th century onward by the lords of Herstmonceux (q.v.) and in 1606 was still held by knight service of Lady Dacre.¹⁰

The earliest sub-tenants were a family taking their name from the manor. Stephen and Richard de Gotele are mentioned about 1264,¹¹ and Juliana and Aveline in 1296,¹² while in 1304 Peter de Gotele conveyed land in Northiam to Robert de Gotele with remainder to Robert's daughter Aveline and her husband Stephen de Forsham.¹³ They left three daughters, but they were deprived of the land by James Alard,¹⁴ who was returned in 1339 as holding Goatley, for which he had provided one bowman.¹⁵ In 1360 the half fee was shared by John de Gotele (son of James,¹⁶ who held land in Northiam in 1339)¹⁷ and Henry Alard.¹⁸ This John left a son Henry, father of John Gotele, who granted the manor in 1440 to John Piers,¹⁹ who had married his sister Anne.²⁰ Goatley then descended with Westfield (q.v.). The Alard portion, however, seems to have passed with an heiress²¹ to the Oxenbridge family²² and to have been leased or mortgaged to James Strowde, whose young son died seised of half the manor of Goatley in 1544, leaving a sister Joan, who subsequently married Thomas Sharpe, and they were holding the moiety in 1555–6.²³ Ten years later it had returned to Sir Robert Oxenbridge and his wife Alice, and was still in the hands of that family in 1596–7.²⁴ After this date it was probably acquired by Thomas Piers, holder of the other portion, as the manor of Goatley descended with Gatecourt, and was in the

possession of George Piers in 1691.²⁵ The Goatley estate (but apparently not the manor) was settled on Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Piers on her marriage with Thomas Scott. Their two daughters and co-heirs, Dorothy and Katherine, married respectively John and Stephen Frewen, brothers. Goatley was the portion of Dorothy and thus passed to John Frewen of Church House, Northiam, on their marriage in 1628, and later, by arrangement with Stephen, was secured to their son John who, however, died childless.²⁶ It subsequently passed by marriage to the family of Lord, with whom it still remains.

In 1771 Goatley manor was owned by Edward Maynard Bristow, who in that year leased or conveyed it to Henry Tuppen.²⁷ William Pix appears as the owner in an assessment of 1801,²⁸ after which record of it is wanting.

The church of *ST. MARY* consists of a *CHURCH* chancel with north and south aisles and a north vestry, nave, north and south aisles, south porch, and west tower. There is also a large mausoleum, attached to the north aisle of the chancel. The church is built of ironstone with limestone dressing and the roofs are covered with slate.

The church dates from the 12th century and consisted then probably of chancel, nave, and west tower: the existing tower and the west wall of the nave are of this period. The south aisle and porch were added early in the 14th century and the north aisle later in that century. In the 15th century the bell-chamber and the spire were added to the tower, the north-west buttress of the tower and the turret stairway being built at the same time. In 1837 the old chancel and a north chapel were pulled down and the existing chancel and aisles built in the style of the 14th century, the Frewen mausoleum, designed by Sidney Smirke, being added in 1846.

The chancel arch has been replaced by a flat beam or girder covered with plaster with a moulded wood beam underneath. The old chancel taken down in 1837 was about 28 ft. long by 17 ft. wide and had a chapel on the north side dedicated in honour of St. Nicholas.

The nave has on either side an arcade of three pointed arches of two plain chamfered orders. That on the north is of the later 14th century and has circular pillars and semicircular responds with moulded capitals and bases. The mouldings of the capitals are varied. The pillars are 1 ft. 8 in. in diameter. The south arcade dates from the early 14th century. Here the pillars and responds are also circular, the pillars being 1 ft. 11 in. in diameter. The capitals and bases are moulded and the bases have square plinths, now much mutilated. Above the arcades on either side are two clerestory windows, one over each pillar. The stonework of these windows is modern. The tower arch, like the tower itself, is built of ironstone: it is a plain pointed arch of 9 ft. 7 in. span and springs from

¹ *Feud. Aids*, v, 150.

² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* x, 145.

³ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xxi (2), g. 771

(3); *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 130; xx, 451.

⁴ *Ibid.* xxxiii, 93; xiv, 862.

⁵ *Ibid.* xiv, 835.

⁶ *Fines* (*Suss. Rec. Soc.* xx), 474; *Recov. R. Mich.* 3 Will. and Mary, ro. 281; *G.E.C. Baronetage*.

⁷ *Recov. R. Mich.* 20 Geo. II, ro. 257; *G.E.C. Complete Peerage*.

⁸ *Add. MS.* 5679, fol. 427.

⁹ Horsfield, *Sussex*, i, 516; Frewen,

Brickwall, Northiam, and Brede, 87.

¹⁰ *Red Bk. of Exch.* 554; *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 102 and 463; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, 232; *Chan. Inq. p.m.* (Ser. 2), ccxcii, 169.

¹¹ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (*Hist. MSS. Com.*), 111.

¹² *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, 13.

¹³ *Ibid.* vii, 1157.

¹⁴ *Add. MS.* 39374, fol. 132.

¹⁵ *Coll. Top. et Gen.* vii, 120.

¹⁶ *Hist. MSS. Com. Var.* vii, 353.

¹⁷ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* x, 329.

¹⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* x, 496.

¹⁹ *Hist. MSS. Com. Var.* vii, 354–7.

²⁰ *Add. MS.* 39377, fol. 100.

²¹ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* viii, 230.

²² Thomas Piers and Robert Oxenbridge were paying equal rents for Goatley in 1541: *Add. MS.* 5679, fol. 457.

²³ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xiv, 997; *Fine R.* 2 & 3 P. and M. 11.

²⁴ *Suss. Rec. Soc.* xix, 172.

²⁵ *Ibid.* xx, 474.

²⁶ Frewen, *op. cit.* 52, 60.

²⁷ Feet of F. *Suss. Hil.* 11 Geo. III.

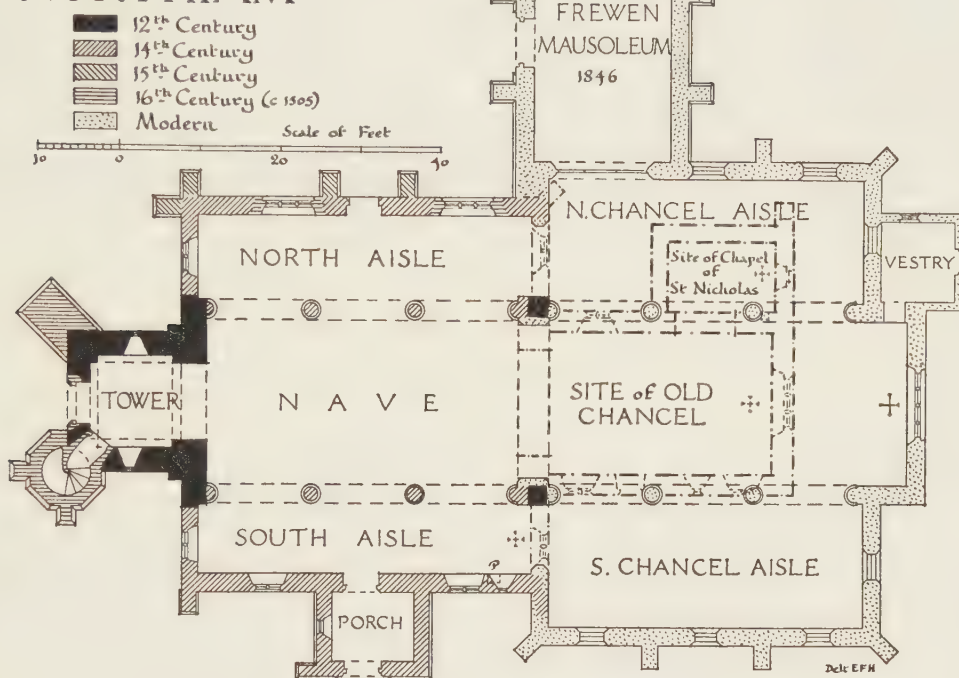
²⁸ Frewen, *op. cit.* 87.

chamfered imposts only 6 ft. above the floor. The nave has an open king-post roof of the 15th century: one beam is modern.

The north aisle opens to the aisle of the chancel by a modern half arch springing from the north wall. In the north wall are two windows, each of three cinquefoiled lights in a four-centred head, inserted early in the 16th century. Between the windows is a pointed 14th-century doorway with continuous mouldings. In the west wall is a 14th-century window of two trefoiled lights with tracery in a square head. South of the window outside can be seen the quoin stones of the nave before

four arches, one on each side. On the north and south is a small light with wide internal splays. The west doorway, which has a pointed head with continuous mouldings, is mostly of modern stonework, as is the large window in the perpendicular style above it. On three sides of the second stage there is a tall lancet window. The third stage, the original bell-chamber, is decorated on the north and south sides by a wall arcade of three tall slightly pointed arches about 1 ft. deep. The middle arch is pierced with a lancet louvre window. The west wall is treated in a similar manner; the central arch with its lancet is open, but both of the

PARISH CHURCH of ST. MARY ~ ~ NORTHIAM



the aisle was added. Above the north doorway is a modern square-headed window of four lights.

The south aisle also has a half arch at the east. In the east end of the south wall is a small 14th-century lancet. Two other windows in this wall and one in the west wall are all of 14th-century character: they are each of two trefoiled lights with tracery in a square head. The south doorway has a pointed head and is of two plain chamfered orders with stops at the base; it is original 14th-century work, as is the south porch. Though the doorways are opposite to each other the axial line of the porch is 1 ft. 6 in. eastward of that of the doorways. There is no window on the east, but on the west is a small lancet. The outer doorway is similar to the other but the jambs are much worn by rubbing, as by the sharpening of iron implements or weapons.

The tower is of four stages surmounted by an embattled parapet and an octagonal stone spire. There is a large buttress at the north-west angle and at the south-west an octagonal stair turret rises above the parapet. The first three stages were built about 1190. The ground stage of the tower is strengthened internally by

flanking recesses have been blocked. The fourth stage, the present bell-chamber, has a window of two trefoiled lights with tracery in a square head on the west and a single light on each of the other sides. The spire, which is of graceful proportions, rises upon squinch arches. Large roll mouldings at the angles rise only to a height of 5 ft. above the base: from this level the angles are plain. The stonework of the spire above this level has been repaired.

The font is modern.

The altar and the communion rails were preserved from the old chancel, as was the fine oak panelling round the sanctuary: all were given to the church by Thankful Frewen in 1638.

On the floor of the nave is a brass with effigy of a priest and an inscription to Robert Beuford, rector, died 1518: he is in an appressed alb, chasuble with an embroidered edging but without orphrey, stole, and maniple: he wears sabbatons. At the corners of the slab were the symbols of the Evangelists, but only those at the bottom, of St. John and St. Luke, remain. Another brass on the nave floor, with effigy and inscription, is to

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Nicholas Tufton, who died in 1538.¹ The effigy is of a civilian in fur-lined gown, lappets, and sabbatons. There are also brass inscriptions to Richard Sharp, died 1553, and to John Sharp, died 1583. This last is a palimpsest.

There are five bells; 1, 2, 3, 4 are by R. Phelps, 1737; the tenor is by Lester and Pack, 1765.²

The communion plate consists of a silver cup, paten, and flagon, of 1740, given by Thomas Frewen in that year and inscribed with his arms; a silver paten on a foot, 1634, with the arms of Frewen and inscribed 'Ex Dono T. F.'; and a silver chalice of 1904. There is also a silver alms plate of 1724, given by Thomas Frewen.³

The registers begin 1558.

The advowson of the rectory of *ADVOWSON* Northiam belonged from early times to the holder of the prebend of Theobald, later of Peasmarsh, within the Chapel of St. Mary in the Castle of Hastings.⁴ At the Dissolution this advowson was granted with others to Sir Anthony Browne,⁵ and remained with the Viscounts Montagu for almost a century. In 1628 Thankful Frewen presented, although the advowson does not seem to have been finally conveyed to him till 1636.⁶ Thankful died unmarried in that year and the advowson passed to his youngest brother, Stephen Frewen of Brickwall,⁷ and his son Thomas presented in 1692.⁸ Before the next vacancy, in 1749, the advowson had passed to the Lord family, who were descendants by marriage of the Frewens of Church House. The advowson remained in that family and was held by the trustees of W. E.

Lord in 1895.⁹ The Rev. Augustus Frewen Aylward presented in 1905, and the living is now in the gift of the Martyrs' Memorial Trust.

Parish or Church Lands. The origin *CHARITIES* of this charity is not known, but the income formerly arising out of some 14 acres has for many years been applied by the rector and churchwardens to the expenses of the parish church. In 1921 the whole of the property was sold. The endowment now produces in dividends about £30, which is assigned to the parochial church council.

James Wilford, by his will made in 1514, charged certain houses known as nos. 5, 6, and 7 Friday Street, London, with a yearly charge of £9 13s. 4d. upon trust that the Merchant Taylors' Company should pay £7 per annum to the rector and churchwardens of Rye to repair the road between Riverhill, Kent, and Northiam, and if they failed to do so the trusteeship was to pass to the rector and churchwardens of Northiam, and if they in their turn failed, then the £7 was to be paid to the rector and churchwardens of Newenden. In 1924 the yearly payment was redeemed. The endowment now consists of £280 2½ per cent. Consols, producing in dividends £7 per annum. In 1925 the rector and churchwardens of Northiam expressed a wish to be relieved of the trust, and it is now administered by the rector and churchwardens of Newenden.¹⁰

Arthur Sidney Haynes, by his will proved in London on 24 July 1931, gave £100 to the rector and churchwardens to apply the income towards the upkeep of the churchyard. The endowment produces about £3 10s.

SEDLSCOMBE

Salescome, Selescome (xi cent.); Setelescumbe (xii and xiii cent.); Sedelescumbe (xiv cent.).

The parish has an area of 2,601 acres, and is very irregular in shape. The Brede River runs through the west of the parish and forms the southern boundary. From the low-lying ground by the river the elevation rises rapidly, reaching almost 300 ft. in the northern half of the parish, and in an outlying portion to the north-west rises as high as 347 ft. The furthest point of the parish in this direction touches a stream called Andrew's Gill, and includes the little hamlet of Swaile's Green.

The main road from Hawkhurst to Hastings runs south through the parish. North of the village a road branches off to the east and then turns south to meet a second branch which leaves the main road at the hamlet of South Street, beside Sedlescombe Bridge.

The village, called Sedlescombe Street, lies about ½ mile south of the parish church, on the Hastings–Maidstone road. It has a long and narrow triangular green, with the point to the south, by the side of which most of the buildings are strung out. In the middle of the green is a pump and drinking fountain under a seated shelter, erected in 1900.

Brickwall faces the north end or base of the triangle and is an L-shaped building with a staircase wing in the inner angle. It is said to have been built by one Farnden,

an ironfounder, but bears on a chimney-stack on the south front the initials I. S. and the date 1599. The lower story is of brick, the upper mostly tile-hung, but at the back some ancient timber-framing is exposed. There are two gabled projecting bay-windows to the upper story of the south front: one of them is ancient, the other is apparently a modern copy. There are also several other original moulded windows. The three old chimney-stacks are either square or of the local rebated type, containing wide fire-places; and there are one or two open-timbered ceilings. Two rooms are lined with contemporary panelling, some of it with lozenge-shaped panels. The staircase is square, rising about a large square solid newel.

The Queen's Head Inn, on the east side of the green, is of early-16th-century or possibly earlier¹¹ origin but has been much altered and is externally mainly of modern brick and tile-hanging: there is now no trace of a hall-place. The original plan was rectangular with an overhanging upper story on the west front and at both north and south ends, now covered by later additions. The rectangular part is of two early periods. The roof-trusses dividing the middle part into three bays are indicated by shaped posts and chamfered tie-beams in the upper story, but there is an extra truss, only a few inches away from the northernmost,¹² which has a very heavy cambered tie-beam with the mortices for

ing fences along the road.

¹¹ The contour of the moulded ceiling-beam in the large north room is more suggestive of the 15th century.

¹² This suggests that two separate buildings have been thrown into one.

¹ Ancestor of the Earls of Thanet: see Bodiam.

² *Suss. Arch. Coll.* xvi, 219.

³ *Ibid.* lv, 202–3.

⁴ *Ibid.* xiii, 143.

⁵ *L. and P. Hen. VIII.* xxi (2), g. 771 (3).

⁶ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.); Feet of F. Suss. East. 12 Chas. I.

⁷ Frewen, *op. cit.* 34.

⁸ *Inst. Bks.* (P.R.O.).

⁹ Frewen, *op. cit.*; *Chich. Dioc. Cals.*

¹⁰ During the years 1928 to 1931 approximately £23 was expended in repair-



SEDLESCOMBE: DURHAMFORD



SEDLESCOMBE: THE MANOR HOUSE

a former stud partition in the soffit. The upper parts of the trusses are hidden by a plastered ceiling. The central chimney-stack, a late-16th-century insertion, has a very wide fire-place, to the north room, with chimney-corner seats and small recesses: the stack, above the tiled roof, is cross-shaped.

The building was lengthened, *c.* 1690, by a further cross-wing at the south end, which has a south chimney-stack gathered in at the sides. The lower room has an open-timbered ceiling and is lined with contemporary panelling. On the first floor its north side is the wall of the original jettied upper story. There are also later additions.

Asselton House stands on the east side of the village green. It is a 15th-century house with a hall of two bays, once open to the roof, and solar and buttery cross-wings. The hall was a small one, the bays being only 8 and 9 ft. respectively. The roof has a middle truss with a heavy cambered and hollow-chamfered tie-beam, an octagonal king-post brought out to square at top and bottom and having a moulded capital and base, and four-way curved struts below the collar-beam and central purlin: the common rafters, laid flatwise, are 7 in. wide. A chimney-stack with a very wide fire-place was inserted (with the upper floors) *c.* 1600. The original moulded and embattled wall-beam remains in the north wall of the (former) hall and the plaster work in the (present) roof-space has original combing. Some of the old close-timbered framing is exposed outside in the north and east walls, but the remainder has been underbuilt with brick and covered with tiling. Modern additions have been built in the west front, making the plan L-shaped, and at the back for the stairs, &c.

A house a few yards south of the Queen's Head Inn has a 17th-century chimney-stack of cross-shaped plan and above the tiled roof is a weather-vane, pierced with the initials and date *1^{ME} 1687*. Next south of Asselton House is a house probably of the early 17th century. The old timber-framing is visible at the back; the front is of brick and tile-hanging. Another cottage farther south is of late-16th-century date and has a jettied upper story carried on curved brackets and the ends of wide flat floor-joists, which are chamfered inside. The lower story is of brick, the upper tile-hung. In the north half of the ground-floor is an original bay-window with moulded posts. The central chimney-stack, above the steeply pitched tiled roof, is of the rebated type. At the south end of the east side is a reconditioned timber-framed barn of the 17th century, now used as tea-rooms. It was once converted into a dwelling-house, but the inserted upper floor has now been removed.

Nearly opposite the barn is a thatched cottage of timber-framing and plaster, the front bearing the date 1509 in a circular panel. It was probably of the hall-place type with solar and buttery wings: floors and a central chimney-stack with wide fire-places were inserted in the 17th century. The south bay, probably the solar, has wide flat ceiling-joists; the middle room has smaller joists and a 17th-century stop-chamfered ceiling-beam. In the north end wall is an original window with diamond-shaped mullions and there is another, now blocked, high up in the original back wall of the middle bay.

There are several other houses about the green with late-17th- or early-18th-century chimney-stacks.

The Manor House, opposite Brickwall, is a timber-framed building, largely refaced and now divided into

tenements. A projecting middle wing, which may have been an entrance-porch wing but has now no traces of a doorway, is of close studding and jettied on all three faces, with moulded bresssummers, and, beneath them, angle-brackets carved with conventional flowers and foliage. The gable-head also projects and has a bressummer carved with fluting and egg-and-tongue ornament; under each end is a carved bracket and pendant. The pierced barge-board is modern. The upper story has a moulded oriel window with canted sides carried on carved shaped brackets, with a plaster coving between the brackets. The oriel is of four lights in front and one each side, divided equally by transoms: on either side, ranging with its upper lights, are two small lights, now blocked. On the face of the head is a small panel inscribed *WD 1611*. It is probable that the date refers to this wing and that the main building is of earlier origin. The bay-window, north of the wing, has canted sides. The old timbers in the bay form curved patterns in squares, and there are moulded bresssummers to the first-floor level and the base of the gable-head, the latter with pendants down which the moulding is returned. The pierced barge-board is ancient and has a pendant at the apex. The three-light window in each story has much larger openings than those of the oriel but similar mouldings. The lights in the canted sides are blocked. There is a small window south of the bay, perhaps one of a pair which flanked the bay like those in the wing. The house has been much renovated and altered, but it has some open-timbered ceilings, and the roof of the north half has wind-braced purlins, more usual in 16th- than 17th-century construction. Behind the projecting wing is a staircase of solid oak balks, next to the central chimney-stack.

Durhamford, on the road to Whatlington, is a house of early- to mid-16th-century date now divided into three tenements. The north front is of three main bays, the easternmost of which has a gabled projecting upper story. The walls are of closely set timber-framing except for patches of repair, chiefly in the lower story. In both the east and west ends the upper story also projects, the west end being covered with weather-boarding. The moulded bressummer of the front gable is supported by shaped brackets; the eastern diagonal bracket is carried on a moulded angle-post with a moulded capping. The barge-board is foiled and enriched with nail-head ornament. The tiled roof has a central chimney-stack set diagonally and there is a projecting chimney-stack at the east end: both are of old thin bricks and have wide fire-places. In the lower story of the middle bay the principal ceiling-beam (transverse) is carried on posts which are moulded similarly to the beam. The ceiling-beams in the two end bays are much plainer. There was an original middle wing at the back, of which some of the close timber-framing can be seen inside, but it has been absorbed in later additions and its roof, which was probably gabled, has been altered to a pent-roof to line with the others. The ceiling-beam inside it is chamfered and the ceiling-joists exposed. The doorway in the north front is of the 18th century and apparently none of the windows is ancient. Panelling from Durhamford is said to have been refixed at Beech Farm in Ewhurst parish.

Spilsteads, a short distance west of Durhamford, is probably of about mid-16th-century origin. The house has been much renovated: the lower story is of brick and the upper story is tile-hung. A straight-joint in the

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brickwork indicates the former overhang of the east front. The gable-head of the middle oriel window has exposed timbers and a cambered bressummer bearing the date 1604, picked out in white paint: the barge-board is incised with a lozenge pattern and has a square turned pendant at the apex. At the west end is a projecting chimney-stack which has a heavy star-shaped shaft with a moulded brick base. In the middle room is a heavy moulded wall-beam, 18 in. deep, of a 16th-century contour, in the east wall, and there is a plain one in the opposite wall. In the back wall is a wide fire-place with brick jambs and a heavy oak lintel the face of which is carved, intaglio, with three large rosettes. The chimney-stack over this has a plain square shaft. The back wall, under cover, shows some of the ancient framing and on the first floor is an original window, now blocked, with chamfered mullions. The steep-pitched roof is tiled.

Little Castlemans, east of Durhamford, is a late-16th-century building, much altered externally. Remains of a jettied west wall are seen inside modern additions, but the jettied south front has been underbuilt with brick. At the back is a 17th-century wing making the plan L-shaped. The ceiling in the westernmost room, formerly the kitchen, has a diagonal beam for the former overhang, and its joists have chamfers stopped at the original plane of the front wall.¹ The middle room also has joists with stops where they met the former front wall, and on the west side a wide fire-place (in the central chimney-stack) with brick jambs and oak bressummer and chimney-corner seats. One post of the front framing remains south of the fire-place; it is shaped at the top, which is carved with a checky pattern, as in a similar post in 'Elms' at Pett. The staircase in the main block at the back of the west room was originally enclosed, with a door at the foot: the framing, towards the room, is now in skeleton form, the plaster infilling having been removed. The stairs from the first floor to the second floor in the back wing are of solid oak balks. During the recent construction of a bathroom two fragments of wall-painting were revealed. One, about a foot wide, west of the central stack, has a date 165(8?) in a band of diaper and seven rows of small triangles in red. The other, east of the stack, about 21 in. by 18 in., has nearly four rows of similar but larger triangles.

SEDLSCOMBE belonged in the time **MANORS** of the Confessor to the Countess Goda, and was held of her by Lefsi. After the Conquest it passed to the Count of Eu,² and the overlordship remained with the lord of the rape.³

The sub-tenant in 1086 was Walter Fitz-Lambert, the ancestor of the family of Scotney, and about 1210 Sedlescombe was in the hands of Peter son of Walter de Scotney.⁴ Peter apparently enfeoffed Robert son of Adam Basok⁵ in the greater part of Sedlescombe, which

was thereafter known as the fee of Basok, and Robert conveyed the southern quarter of the fee, round the bridge and mill of 'Iltunesbeth' (later 'Tyltonesbathe') on the River Brede, to Battle Abbey.⁶

In 1210-12 the abbey of Robertsbridge held in free alms of Peter de Scotney two-thirds and a quarter of a knight's fee in Sedlescombe, of which the quarter was **WORTH** or Wortham, the 'land of Gencelin', granted to the abbey at its foundation, and confirmed to them by the Archbishop of Canterbury about 1180. The agreement was later renewed by purchase with Gencelin's son Gilbert, and confirmed by the Count of Eu about 1197. About 1200 this quarter fee was held by Stephen de Knelle, who then acknowledged the ownership of Robertsbridge, and it was again ratified by Peter de Scotney in 1216 and Robert Basok of Sedlescombe in 1220,⁷ after which it was included in the fee of Basok. The fee of Basok had a century later become divided into four parts. Besides the quarter fee held by Robertsbridge, a quarter fee was held by Battle Abbey, and a quarter was held by John Yevegod. This last had passed by 1469 into the hands of the Knights Hospitallers,⁸ who owned the advowson (q.v.). The fourth portion⁹ comprised Toddingworth in Heathfield (q.v.).¹⁰

The lands of Battle Abbey in Sedlescombe, granted with its other possessions at the Dissolution to Sir Anthony Browne, are referred to in 1541-2 and after as the manor.¹¹ It descended in the family of the Viscounts Montagu, in the same manner as Battle (q.v.) until at any rate 1637,¹² after which it is said to have passed to the Sackville family. A younger branch of this family was living in Sedlescombe for some time and may have held the manor,¹³ but it seems to have come before the end of the century to the elder line. From 1695 to 1712 it was held by the Hon. Richard Sackville, presumably the third son of Richard, 5th Earl of Dorset, and upon his death passed to the Hon. John Sackville.¹⁴ The manor remained in the family and has descended to their representative, Earl de la Warr.



SACKVILLE. Quarterly or and gules a bend vair.

The manor of **FOOTLANDS** [Fodilant (xi cent.); Fodelindene (xiii cent.); Fodilande (xii-xvi cent.); Fudlond (xvi cent.)] was held before the Conquest by Wenestan, and in 1086 was held of the Count of Eu by Anschitil.¹⁵ Ingelran de Freschville, with his daughter Maud and her husband Reynold de Mainers, sold it about 1180 to the newly founded abbey of Robertsbridge. This sale was confirmed by Henry de Eu and others,¹⁶ and it was held directly of the Count, subject apparently to certain rights of Peter de Scotney.¹⁷ In 1535 it was in the tenure of Oliver Vane,¹⁸ and at the

¹ This room and one other have some 16th-century panelling.

² *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 406b, 407a.

³ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 102, 463; *Cal. Inq.* p.m. viii, 232.

⁴ *Red Bk. Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), ii, 623; *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), 71.

⁵ He is probably the Robert 'de Baroches' who held 2 virgates of the Count of Eu by service of supplying 2 brachets and 4 harriers when required: *Red Bk. Exch.* (Rolls Ser.), ii, 555.

⁶ Thorpe, *Cat. of Battle Abbey Chs.* 44,

45; Aug. Off. Misc. Bks. 56, fol. 7; Hales MS. (Lincoln's Inn), 87, fol. 58. The site of the mill was given by William de Ore (ibid. fol. 59), whose namesake held a fee in Bricklehurst and Sedlescombe in 1302: *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, p. 102.

⁷ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), 38, 48, 56, 71, 77.

⁸ Rent. and Surv. (P.R.O.), 658.

⁹ Possibly the half hide held in 1036 by Geoffrey the Canon; *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 407a.

¹⁰ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* ii, 102, 463; *Cal. Inq.* p.m. viii, 232.

¹¹ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiii (2), g. 249 (8); Pat. R. 33 Hen. VIII, pt. 2.

¹² Feet of F. Suss. 26 Eliz.; Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccliii, 80; Feet of F. Suss. Trin. 13 Chas. I.

¹³ Berry, *Suss. Gen.* 301; Add. MS. 5680, fol. 299.

¹⁴ Ibid.; Collins, *Peerage*, ii, 169.

¹⁵ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 407a.

¹⁶ *Lord de L'Isle and Dudley* (Hist. MSS. Com.), 37, 48, 70.

¹⁷ Ibid. 71; *Red Bk. Exch.* ii, 554, 623.

¹⁸ *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), i, 350.

Dissolution it was doubtless granted, with all the lands of Robertsbridge Abbey, to Sir William Sidney,¹ but there is no further record of the manor.²

HERST, situated in the north-east of the parish, was held before the Conquest by Ulwin, for half a hide, and in 1086 was held of the Count of Eu by Ednod.³ In 1320 it was held of John of Brittany by Thomas de Hastings together with Icklesham and other manors, by knight's service.⁴ Thomas was still holding it in 1343,⁵ but after that record of it was lost.

The church of *ST. JOHN THE CHURCH BAPTIST* consists of a chancel, south vestry, nave, north and south aisles, south porch, and west tower. It is built principally of ironstone ashlar, and the roofs are tiled.

The tower dates from the early part of the 15th century and the nave and north aisle are probably of the same period but have been so much renewed that they retain scanty medieval detail. The church was restored in 1866-74. The chancel and the east bay of the north aisle have been rebuilt: the vestry and the south aisle and porch are modern.⁶

The chancel walls stand upon the old base. Some perpendicular tracery has been re-used in the three-light east window, but the other windows and the chancel arch are modern.

The nave has on either side similar arcades of four pointed arches. The arches are of two orders and spring from octagonal pillars and semi-octagonal responds with moulded capitals and bases. The north arcade has been rebuilt and very little original work remains; the south arcade is modern. The tower arch dates from the 15th century: it is pointed and of two chamfered orders springing from responds with moulded capitals and bases. The nave roof retains its 15th-century king-post trusses, with moulded tie-beams and wall-plates.

One window in the north wall of the north aisle, of two cinquefoiled lights in a square head, is original 15th-century work, and two others of the same design in this wall, though principally of modern stonework, have old internal jambs. High up in the west gable is a single-light window with a four-centred head, probably inserted in the 17th century to light a gallery in the north aisle. The roof over the north aisle has original moulded tie-beams and wall-plates.

The tower is of three stages, undivided externally, and is surmounted by a parapet and a low pyramidal tiled spire. It has deep angle-buttresses on the west and a turret stairway at the north-west. The west doorway has a pointed arch in a square head with plain spandrels: much of the stonework has been renewed. Above the doorway is a three-light window with perpendicular tracery, principally of modern stonework. The second

stage is lighted by small rectangular windows, and the bell-chamber on each side by one trefoiled light.

The font and the oak cover both date from the early part of the 16th century. The font is of limestone: it has a plain octagonal bowl,⁷ gathered in below to a round bead at the stem: the stem and the splayed base are circular. The cover is octagonal and is composed of linenfold panels surmounted by openwork tracery, the corner pieces being carried up to finials above the tracery. The top rises behind the tracery in the form of a crocketed pinnacle. The cover is raised by means of a rope and pulley with a counterweight. The oak altar, with baluster legs, dates from the 17th century: it has a modern extension on either side. Panels which probably belonged to a 16th-century rood-screen are used up at the backs of two seats at the west of the nave. There is also in the nave some 17th-century panelling, with round-headed panels, and other 17th-century panels are re-used in the stalls in the chancel. In the north-west window of the north aisle are some fragments of 16th-century glass including a shield with the arms of John Downton.⁸ On the west wall of the north aisle is a mural monument, with shield, to Colonel Thomas Sackville, died 1692; and hung on the wall are gauntlets, and a helm with the Sackville crest.

There are six bells; 1, 2, and 3 by Joseph Carter, 1607, on 2 is a stamp bearing a crowned bell; 4, 1606, also by Joseph Carter; it has a shield bearing ermine, between three bells a crown; 5, by Robert Mot, 1595: it has a medallion bearing three bells, a crown, the letters I. H. S. and the initials R. M.⁹ The sixth bell was presented in 1929, when all the bells were re-hung.

The plate¹⁰ consists of a silver cup of about 1700;¹¹ a silver cup given in 1714; a silver paten on a foot of 1697, and another of 1870; a silver flagon of 1869 and one of 1904; a small silver communion set of 1903; a silver alms plate of 1798; and an old pewter flagon. An inventory of the parish plate of 1726 gives 'One pewter flagon, one silver cup with cover, one silver salver for the alms and a silver paten.'

The registers begin 1558.

At the time of the Conquest there *ADVOWSON* was a chapel at Sedlescombe.¹² In 1225 the Prior of the Hospital of Jerusalem¹³ recovered the advowson of Sedlescombe church against Robert Basok, on the grounds that he (the Prior) had made the last presentation.¹⁴ Presumably the advowson remained with the Hospital until its suppression, when it fell to the Crown, by whom it was retained, the rectory, now joined with that of Whatlington, being in the alternate gift of the Lord Chancellor and Lord Sackville (for Whatlington).

¹ *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xiv (1), g. 906, p. 423.

² Footlands Farm is a timber-framed house of c. 1600, with open-timbered ceilings and wide fire-places.

³ *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 407a.

⁴ *Cal. Ing. Misc.* ii, 102.

⁵ *Ibid.* 463.

⁶ A plan of the seats in the church, made in 1632, shows a south porch, and

also a west gallery: *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lii, 96.

⁷ The rim of the bowl is strengthened by a modern iron band.

⁸ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* lxviii, 217.

⁹ *Ibid.* xvi, 171-3, 223.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* lv, 205-6.

¹¹ This cup, the paten of 1697, the flagon, and the alms plate were apparently all given by the Rev. John Warner when he became rector in 1870.

¹² *V.C.H. Suss.* i, 406b.

¹³ About a century later, by a coincidence, the Hospitallers acquired the manor of Saddlescombe, near Lewes, which had belonged to the Templars.

¹⁴ *Suss. Arch. Coll.* ix, 233, quoting Pleas of Kings Bench Mich. 9 Hen. III, ro. 18. Presentation was made by the Prior of the Hospital in 1440: *Reg. Praty* (*Suss. Rec. Soc.*), 119.



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